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(54) **PROMOTIONAL CORRELATION WITH
SELECTIVE VEHICLE MODES**

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claimer.

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(2013.01)

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USPC 701/29.3, 29.6, 33.4; 705/4, 13, 14.1,
705/14.11

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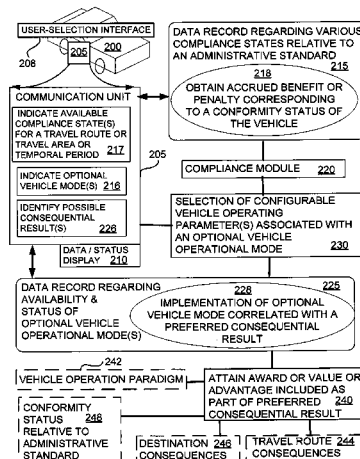
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Exemplary methods, systems and components enable selec-
tive control of an operational mode for a vehicle that is subject
to an administrative standard. In some instances a qualified
person or entity may attain a possible consequential result
related to a user-selected vehicle operation mode that may
involve a vehicle operation paradigm and/or a vehicle travel
route and/or a vehicle travel destination. In some embodi-
ments, implementation of the selected vehicle operation
mode may modify a conformity status of the vehicle relative
to the administrative standard. Various accessible records
may be maintained regarding administrative compliance
states and their respective benefits, as well as regarding cer-
tification of preferable consequential results available to
qualified recipients based on a correlated vehicle operational
mode.

58 Claims, 61 Drawing Sheets



Related U.S. Application Data

filed on Sep. 30, 2009, and a continuation-in-part of application No. 12/587,017, filed on Sep. 29, 2009, and a continuation-in-part of application No. 12/462,207, filed on Jul. 29, 2009.

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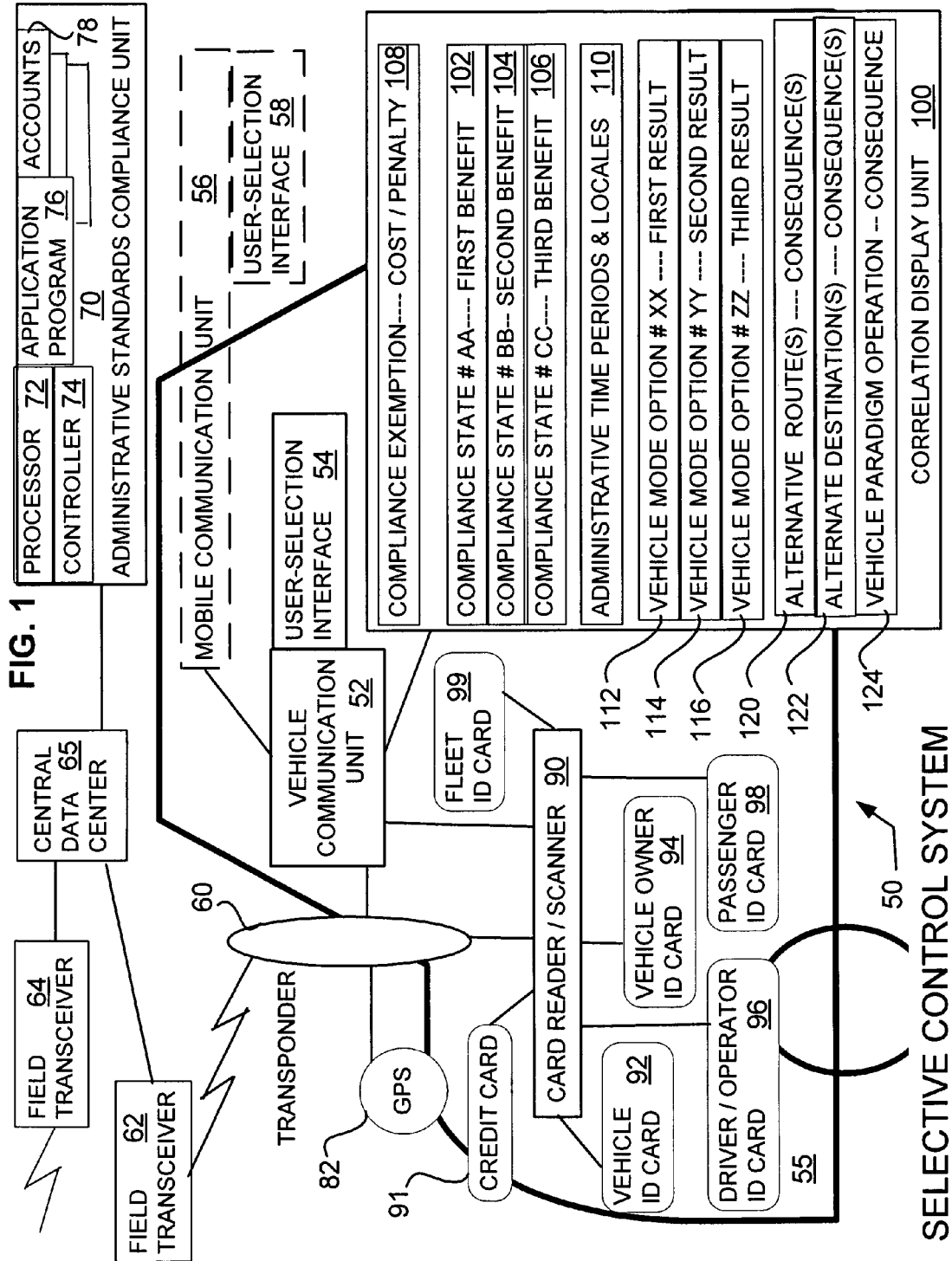


FIG. 2

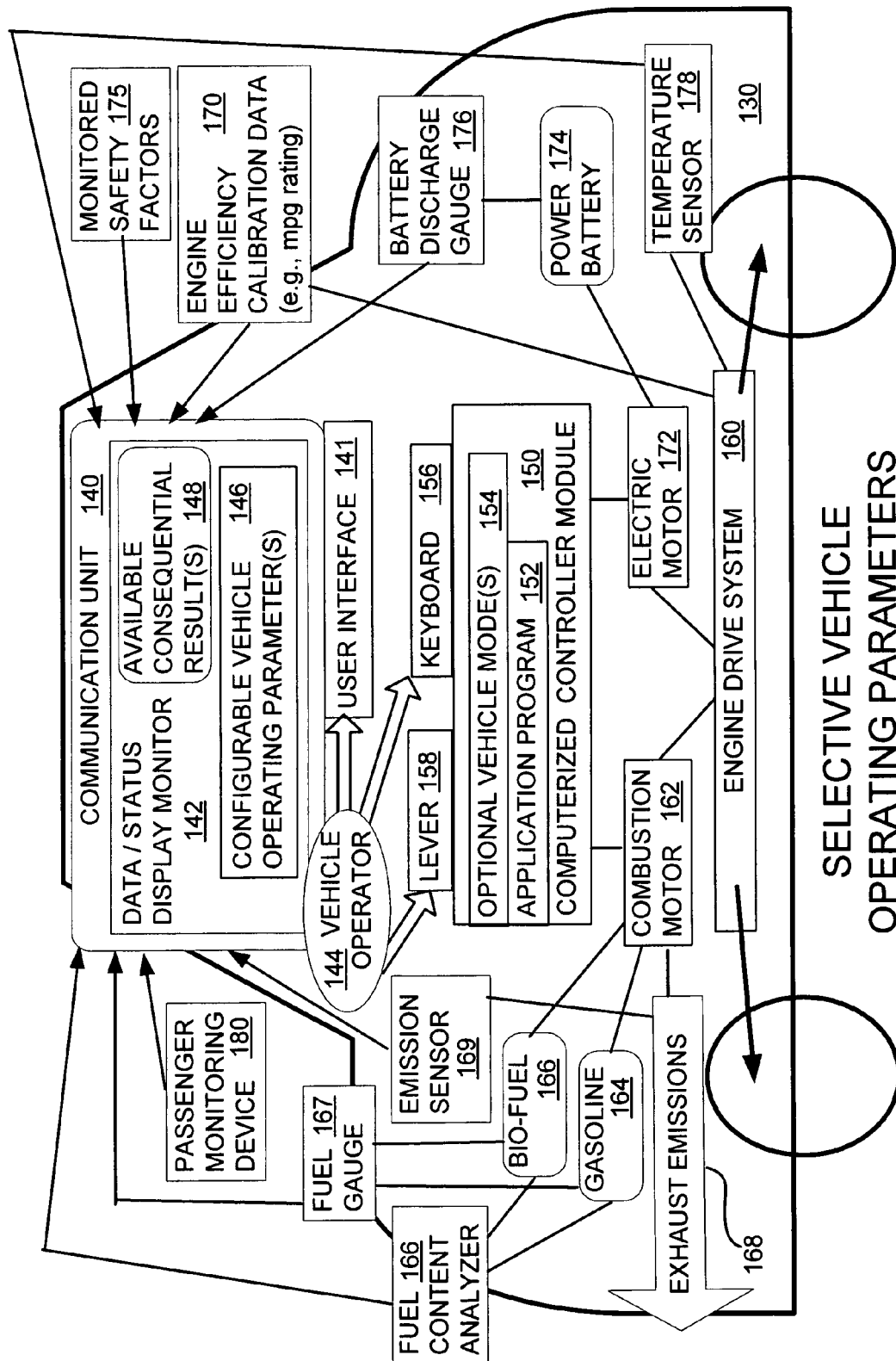


FIG. 3

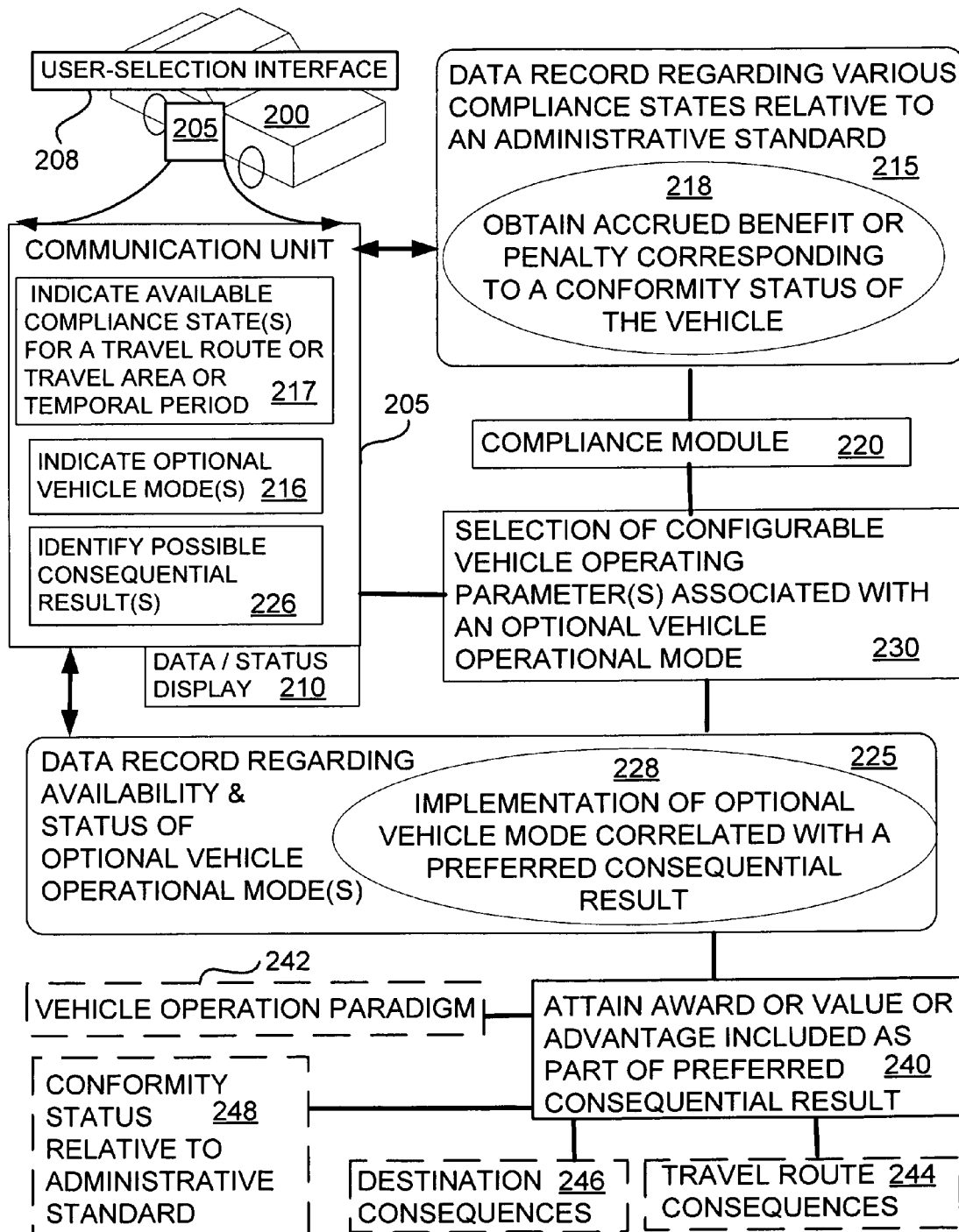


FIG. 4

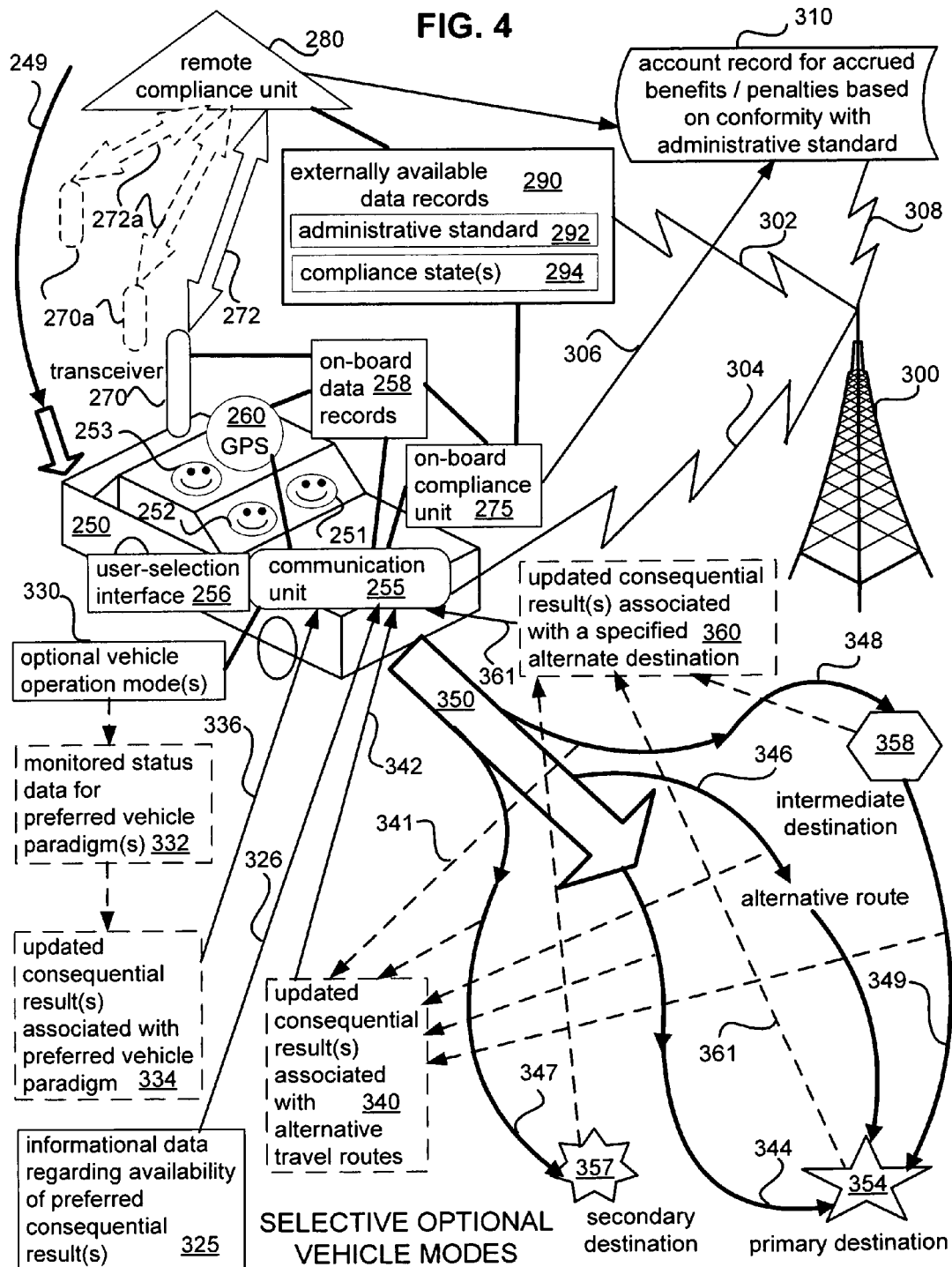


FIG. 5

FIG. 3

380

390

ADMINISTRATIVE STANDARDS DATA TABLE FOR VARIED COMPLIANCE STATES

385

6-9 am & 4-7pm DESIGNATED COMMUTER TIME 8 am to 8 pm SPECIAL DAILY AIR QUALITY ALERTS		APPLICABLE PRIVATE & PUBLIC LOCALES (e.g., Areas and Travel Routes)	
VARIED VEHICLE COMPLIANCE STATE(S) 395 DURING DESIGNATED TIME PERIOD	DAILY	TRI-CITY FREEWAY'S HIGH SPEED THRU LANE	402
BATTERY- POWERED VEHICLE 432	\$ -0-	MEMORIAL TOLL ROAD	404
HYBRID / ELECTRIC POWER MODE ONLY	\$ 2	EVERGREEN PARKWAY	406
HYBRID / OVER 50% ELECTRIC MODE 436	\$ 6	ROOSEVELT TUNNEL	408
HYBRID / OVER 50% COMBUSTION MODE	\$ 8	PIONEER VIADUCT	410
PURE BIO-FUEL COMBUSTION MODE 440	\$ 4	CASCADE RIVER BRIDGE	412
CERTIFIED BIO-FUEL BLEND ONLY 442	\$ 8	WASHINGTON LAKE FERRY	414
COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS FUEL 444	\$ 4	STATE HIGHWAY 25 -- HOV/DIAMOND LANES	416
CONVENTIONAL GAS/DIESEL FUEL 446	\$ 15	GRIZZLY BEAR FOREST STATE PARK	418
DIESEL W/LOW-EMISSION MODE "ON" 448	\$ 10	REDWOOD MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK	420
GAS W/CATALYTIC CONVERTER "ON" 449	\$ 10	NATURE'S HABITAT PRIVATE RESORT	422
DRIVER ONLY -- ZERO PASSENGERS 450	extra \$ 9	EMERALD CITY URBAN CENTER BETWEEN CENTRAL AVE / RIVER RD / ASPEN DR / STATE ST	424
AT LEAST ONE PASSENGER 452	extra \$ 7	ALL ROADS & STREETS IN SUNSET VILLAGE	426
AT LEAST TWO PASSENGERS 454	extra \$ 3	FORD COLLEGE CAMPUS & RESEARCH PARK	427
AT LEAST THREE PASSENGERS 456	extra \$ 0-	NOTTINGHAM RETIREMENT COMMUNITY	428
PREPAID ALL-DAY EXEMPTION TICKET 460	total \$ 20		

FIG. 6 DATA TABLE FOR VARIED
ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

OPERATION MODE CATEGORY	COMPLIANCE STATE	PAYMENT STATUS		FEE
		PASSENGER SHARE BASIS	COMBO SHARE W/BATTERY or BIO-FUEL	
SHARE <u>482</u>	AT LEAST ONE PASSENGER <u>492</u>	<u>502</u>		\$ 10
BATTERY <u>484</u>	SOLELY ELECTRIC POWER <u>494</u>	BATTERY POWER BASIS	<u>504</u>	\$ 8
BIO-FUEL <u>486</u>	SOLELY BIO-FUEL COMBUSTION <u>496</u>	BIO-FUEL BASIS	<u>506</u>	\$ 8
EXEMPTION	AUTHORIZED PRE-PAYMENT <u>498</u>	EXEMPTION BASIS	<u>508</u>	\$ 20

OPERATION MODE CATEGORY	COMPLIANCE STATE	FEE	
		<u>522</u>	<u>524</u>
SOLO <u>514</u>	NO PASSENGER	<u>522</u>	\$ 30
POOL <u>516</u>	ONE/TWO PASSENGERS	<u>524</u>	\$ 20
GROUP <u>518</u>	THREE OR MORE PASSENGERS	<u>526</u>	\$ 10

OPERATION MODE CATEGORY	COMPLIANCE STATE	FEE
ZERO EMISSIONS <u>544</u>	ELECTRIC POWER VEHICLE, or SOLELY ELECTRIC MODE (HYBRID ENGINE), or CERTIFIED LOW COMBUSTION EMISSION <u>552</u>	ZERO
HIGH OCCUPANCY (HOV) <u>546</u>	AT LEAST 2 PASSENGERS <u>548</u>	ZERO
CASH/CREDIT EXEMPTION <u>548</u>	DAILY/WEEKLY/MONTHLY RATE	\$25/DAILY \$100/WEEKLY \$350/MONTHLY

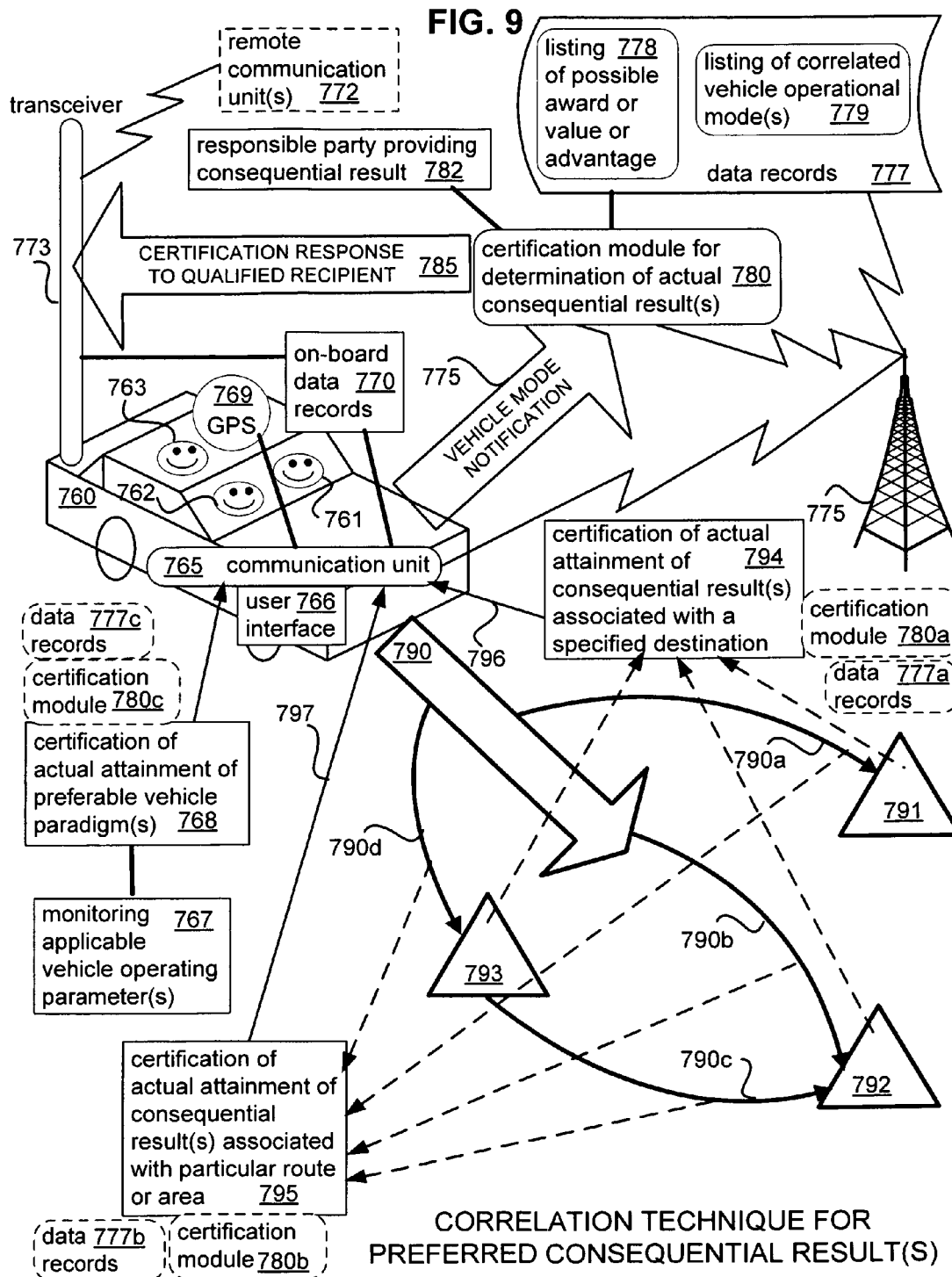


FIG. 10

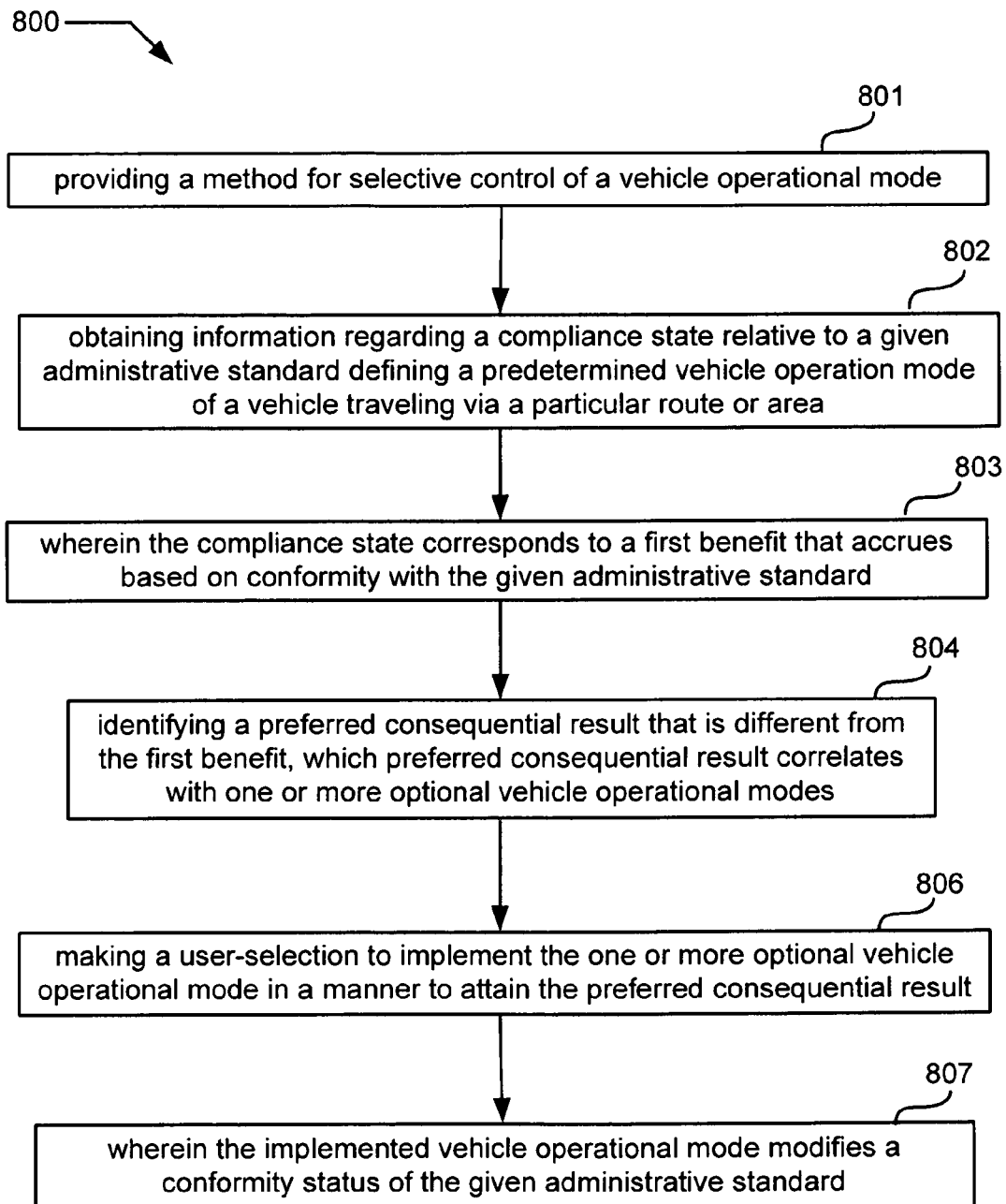


FIG. 11

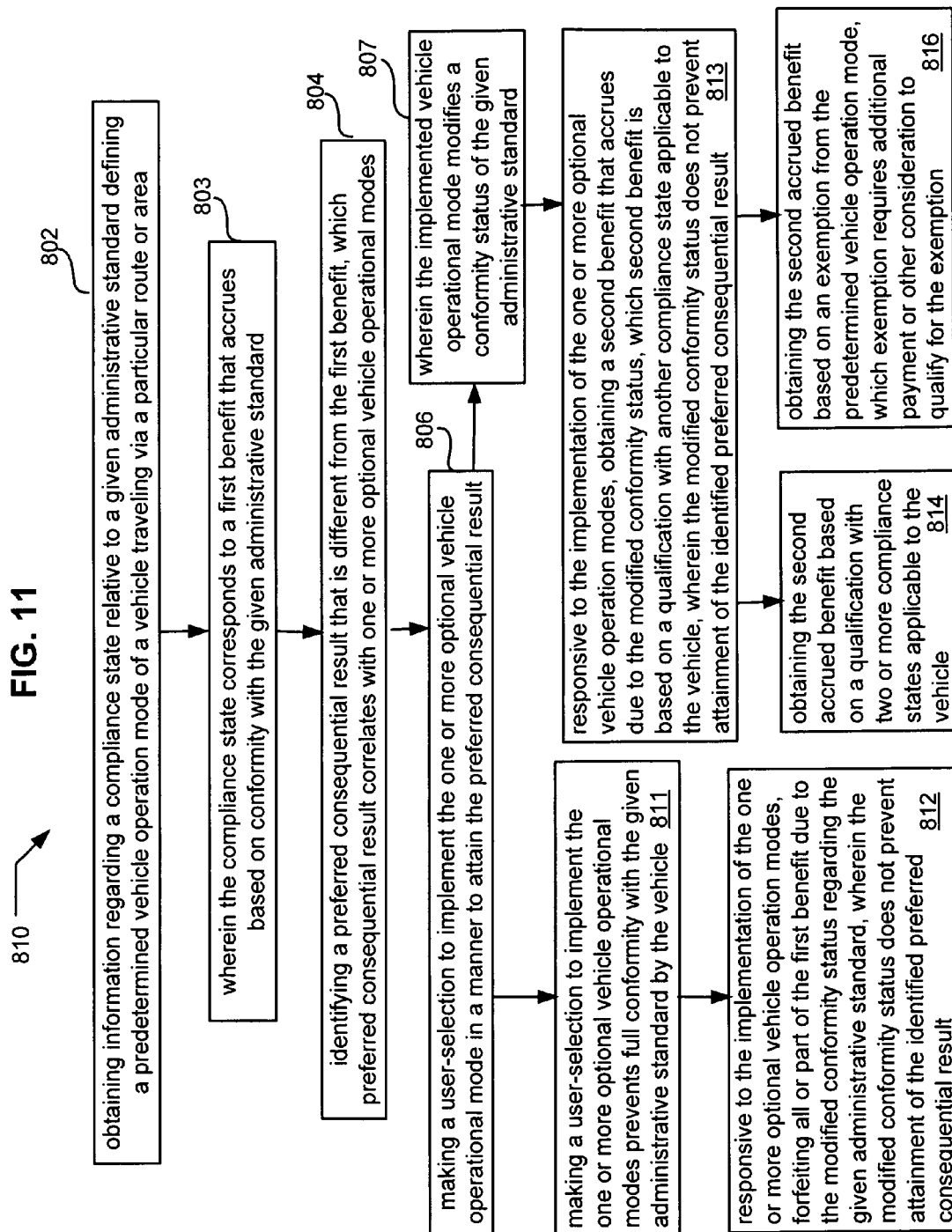


FIG. 12

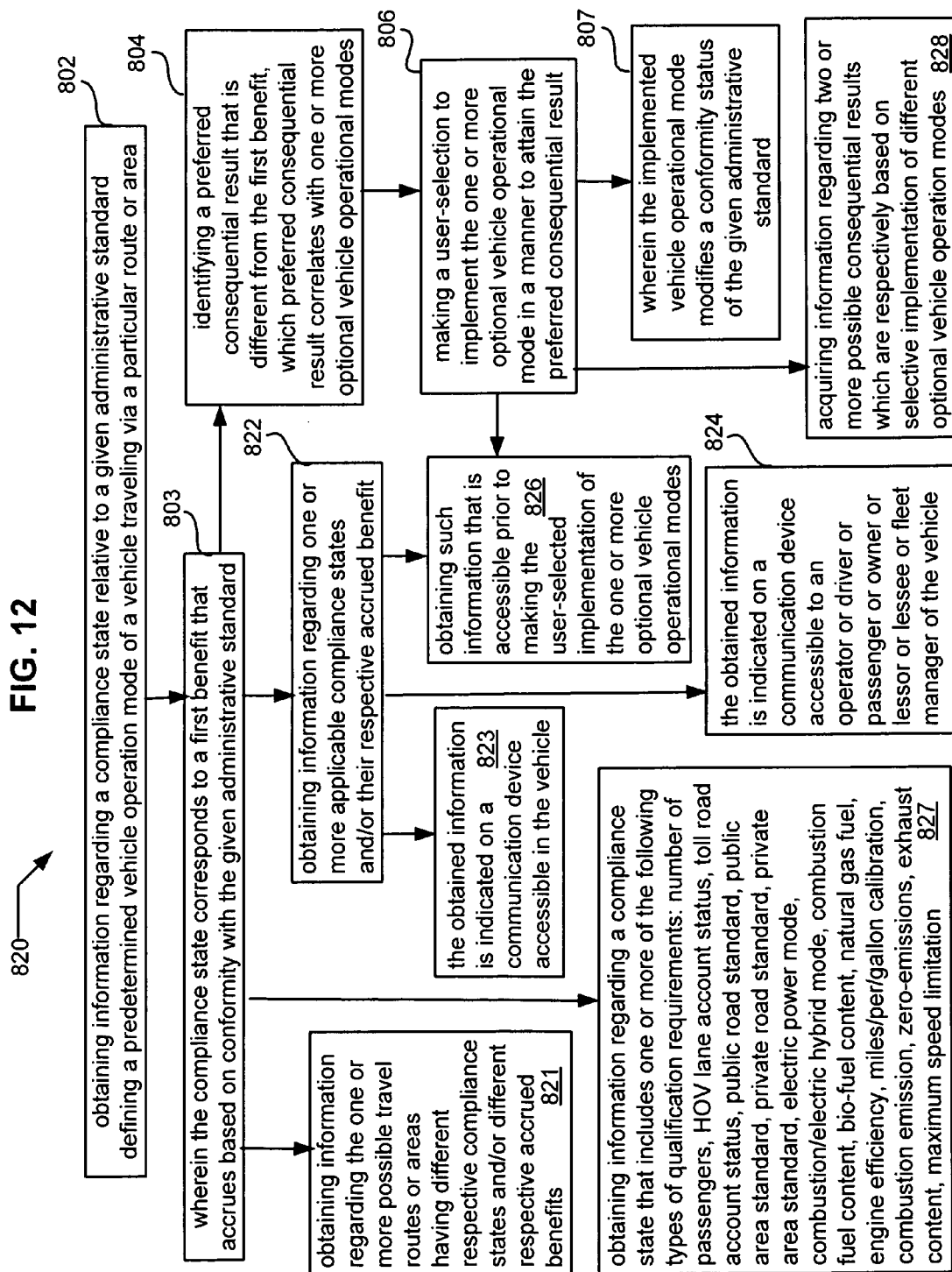


FIG. 13

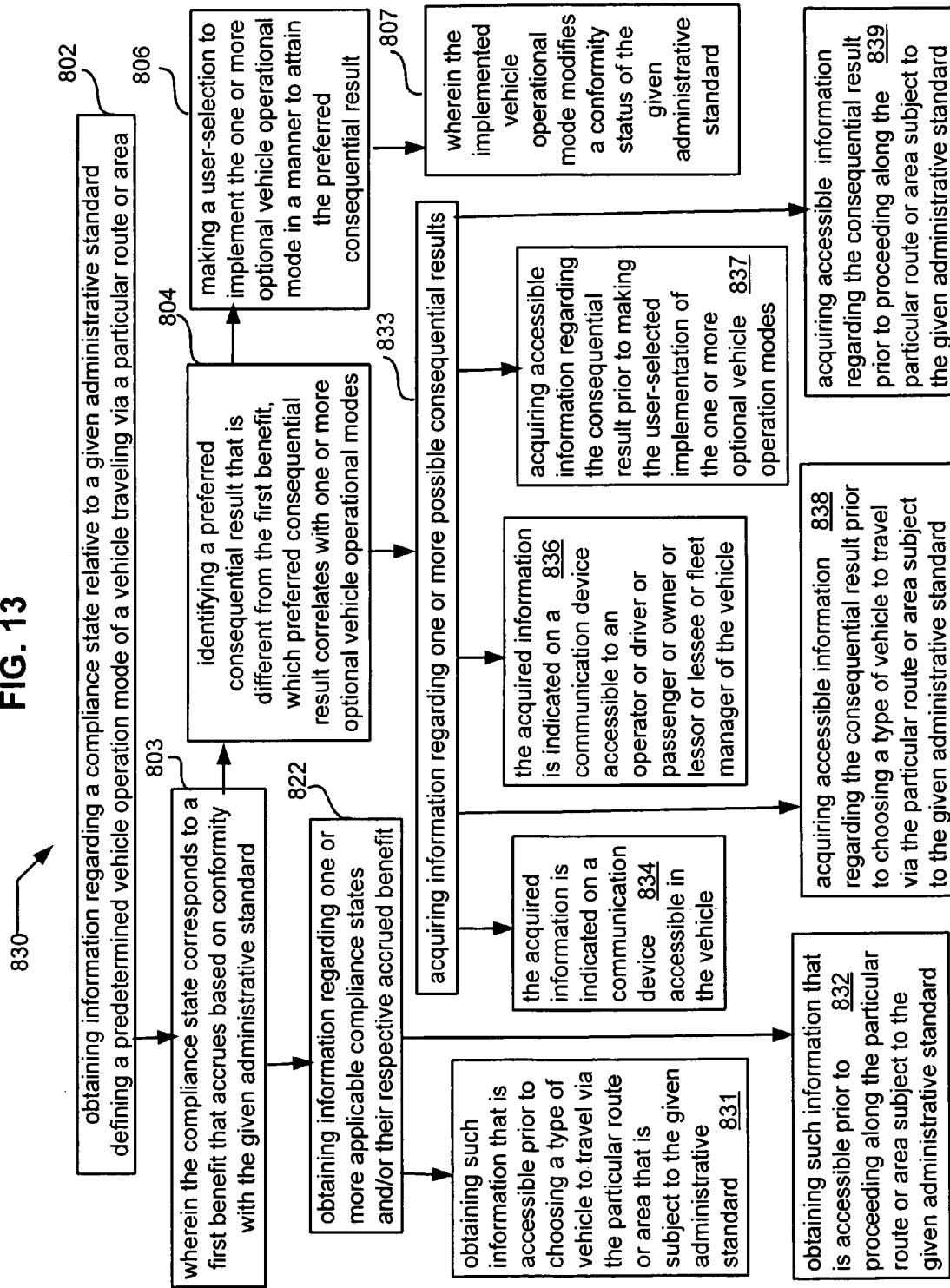


FIG. 14

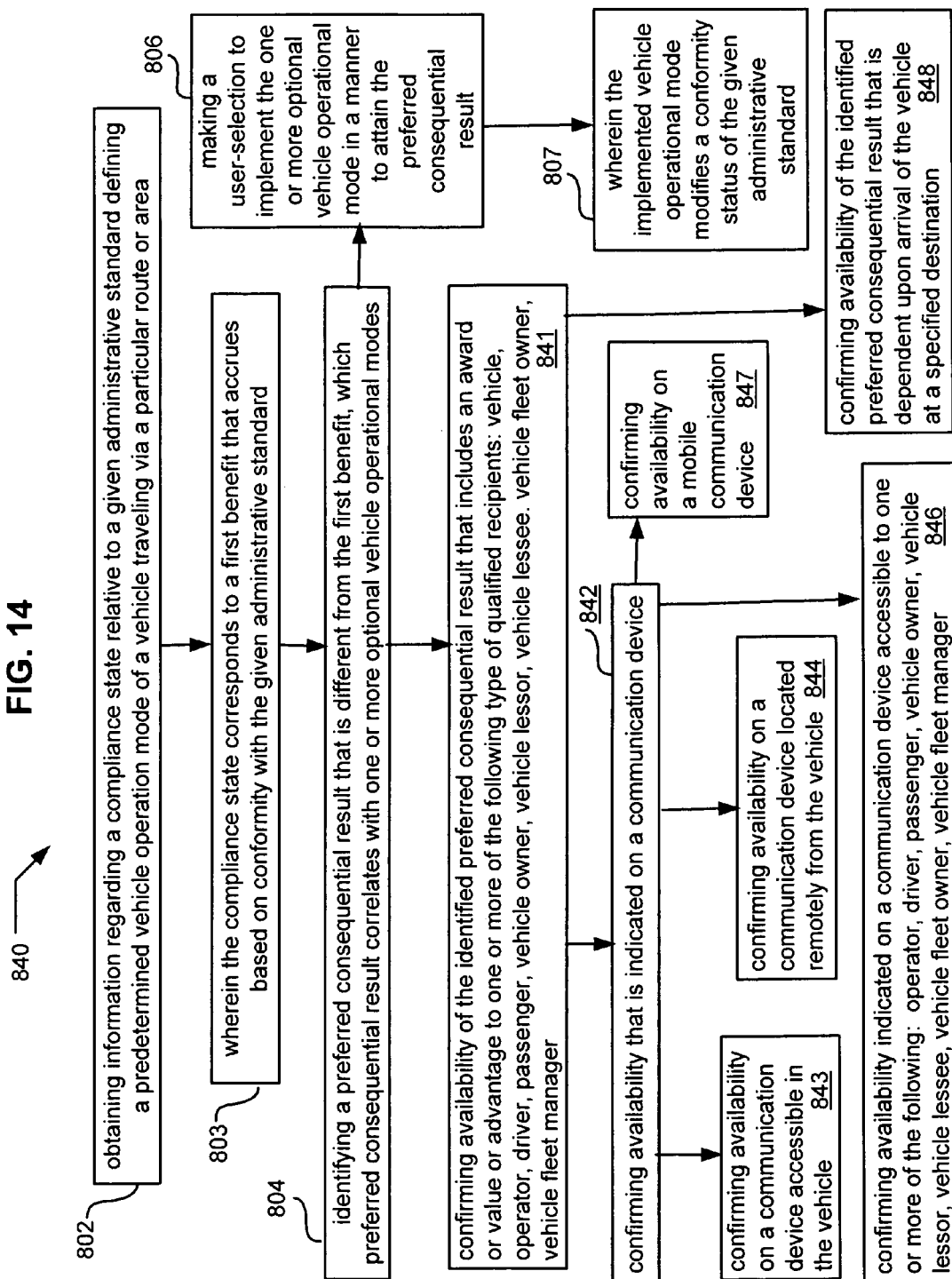


FIG. 15

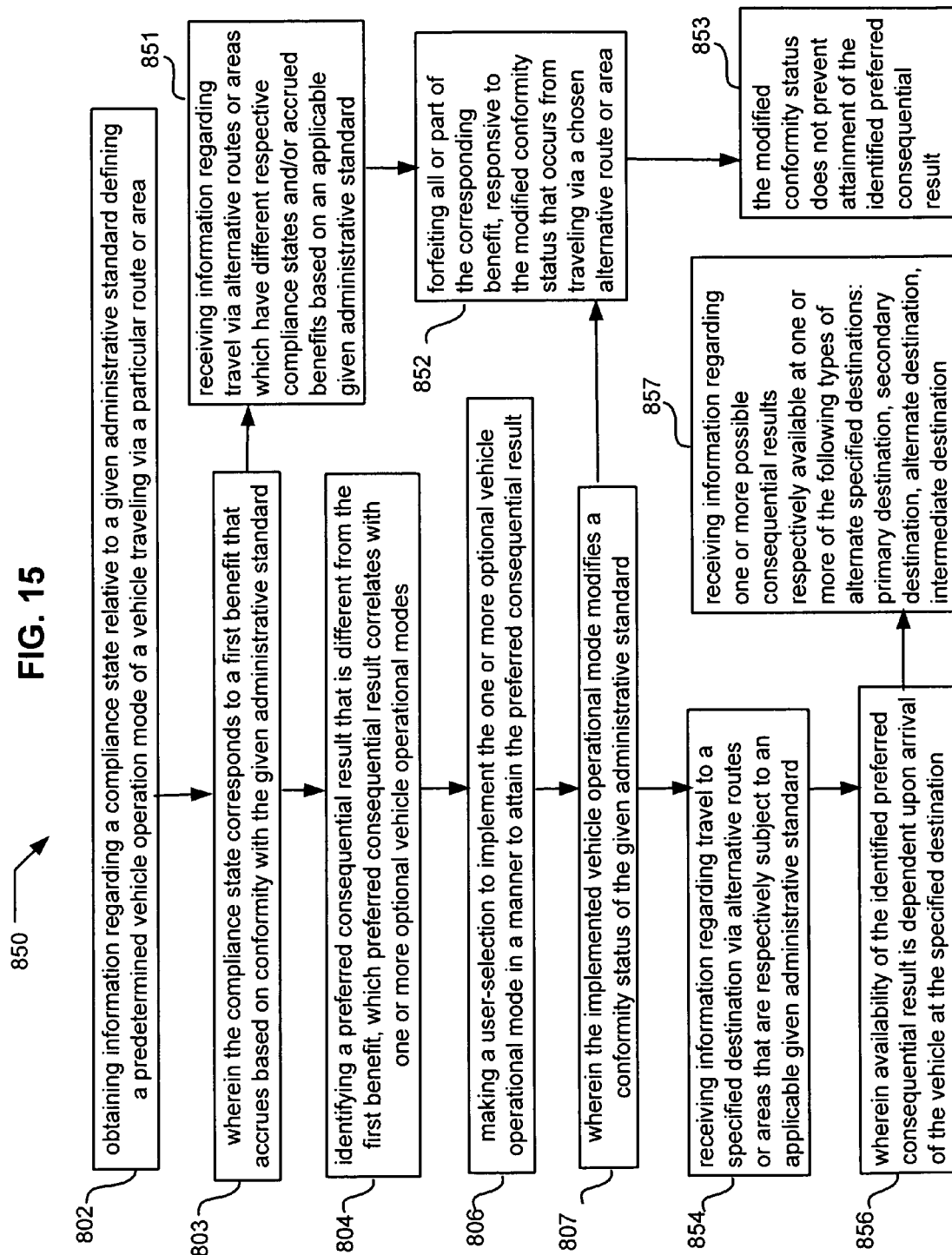


FIG. 16

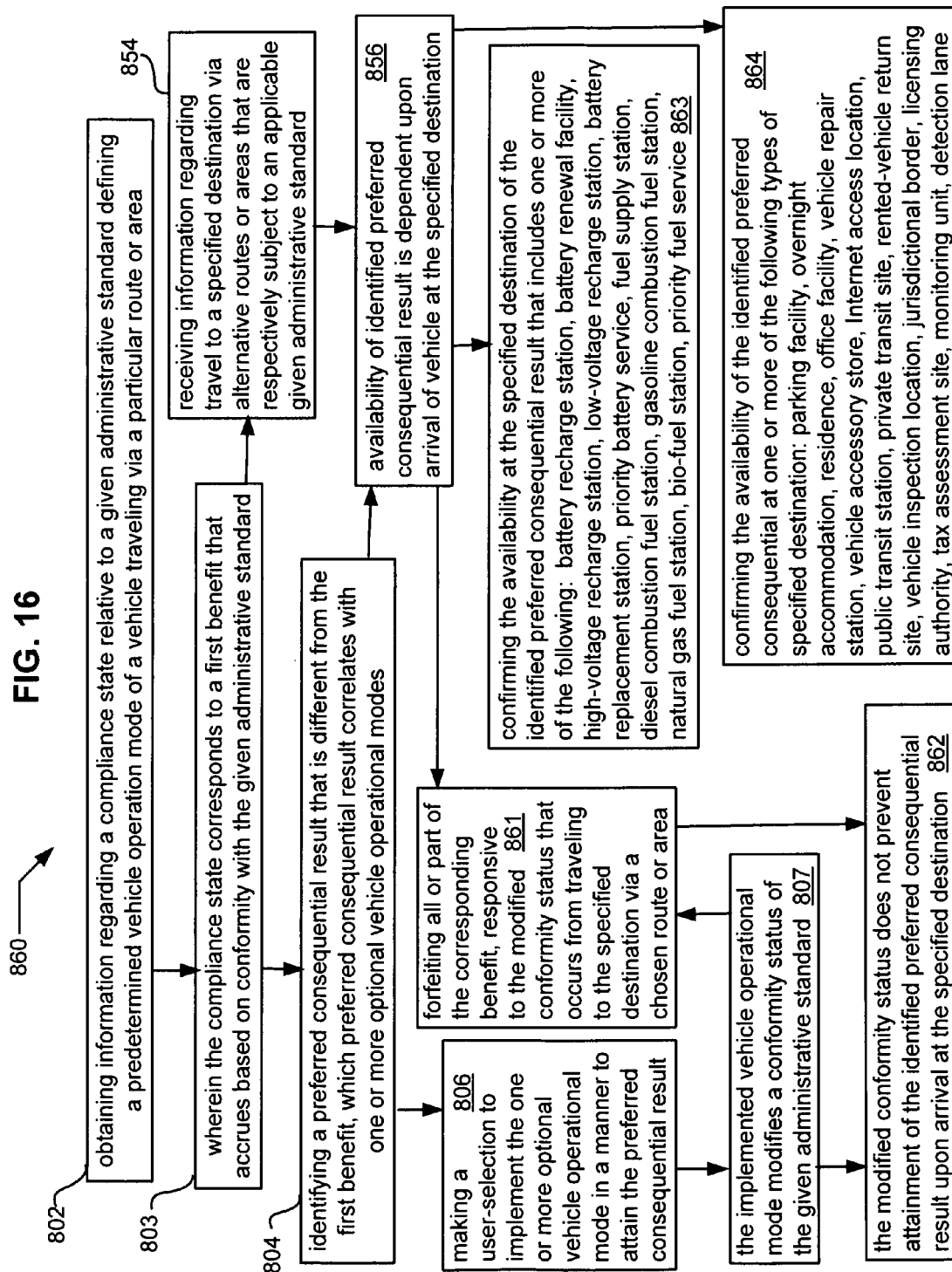


FIG. 17

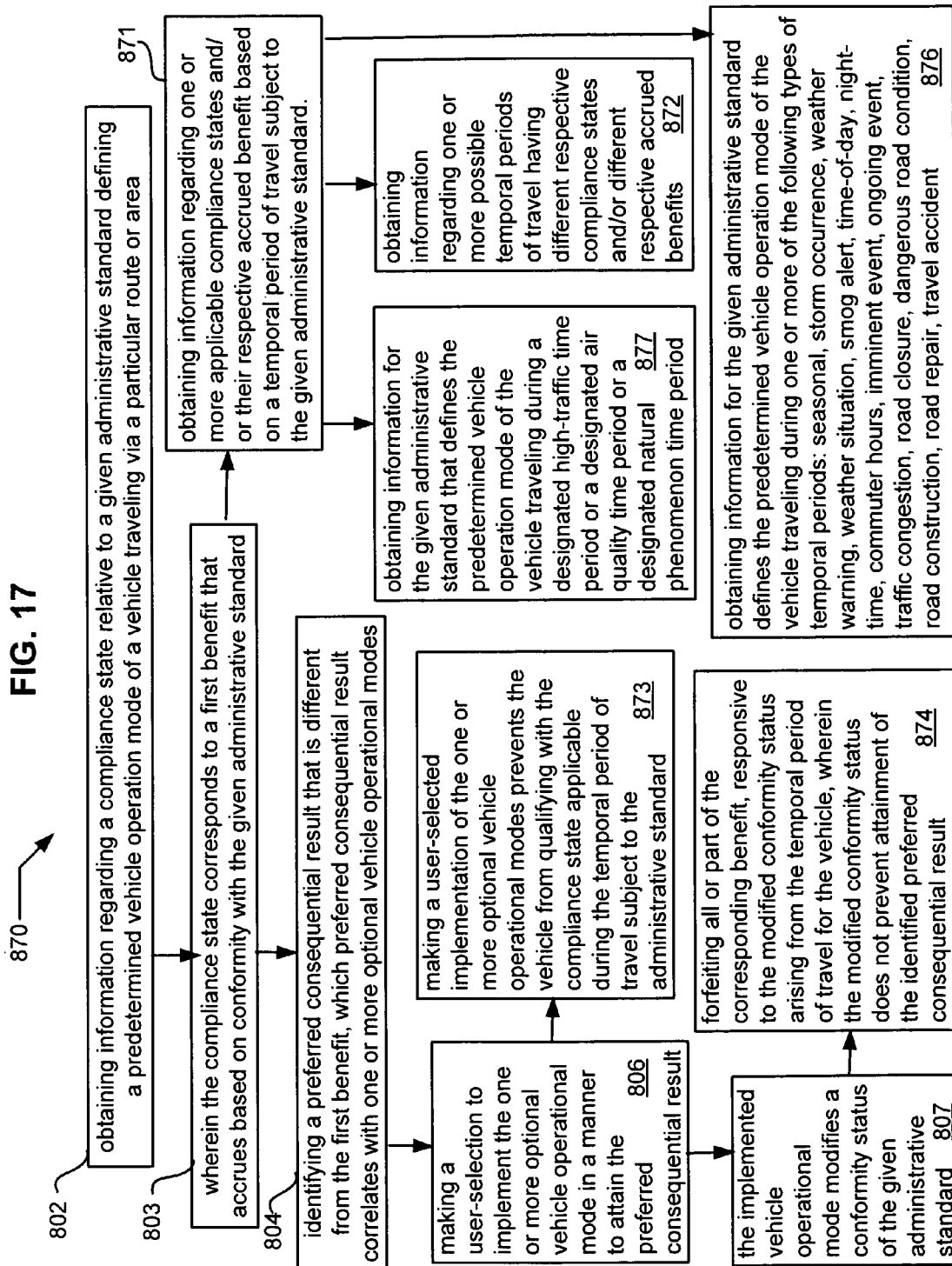


FIG. 18

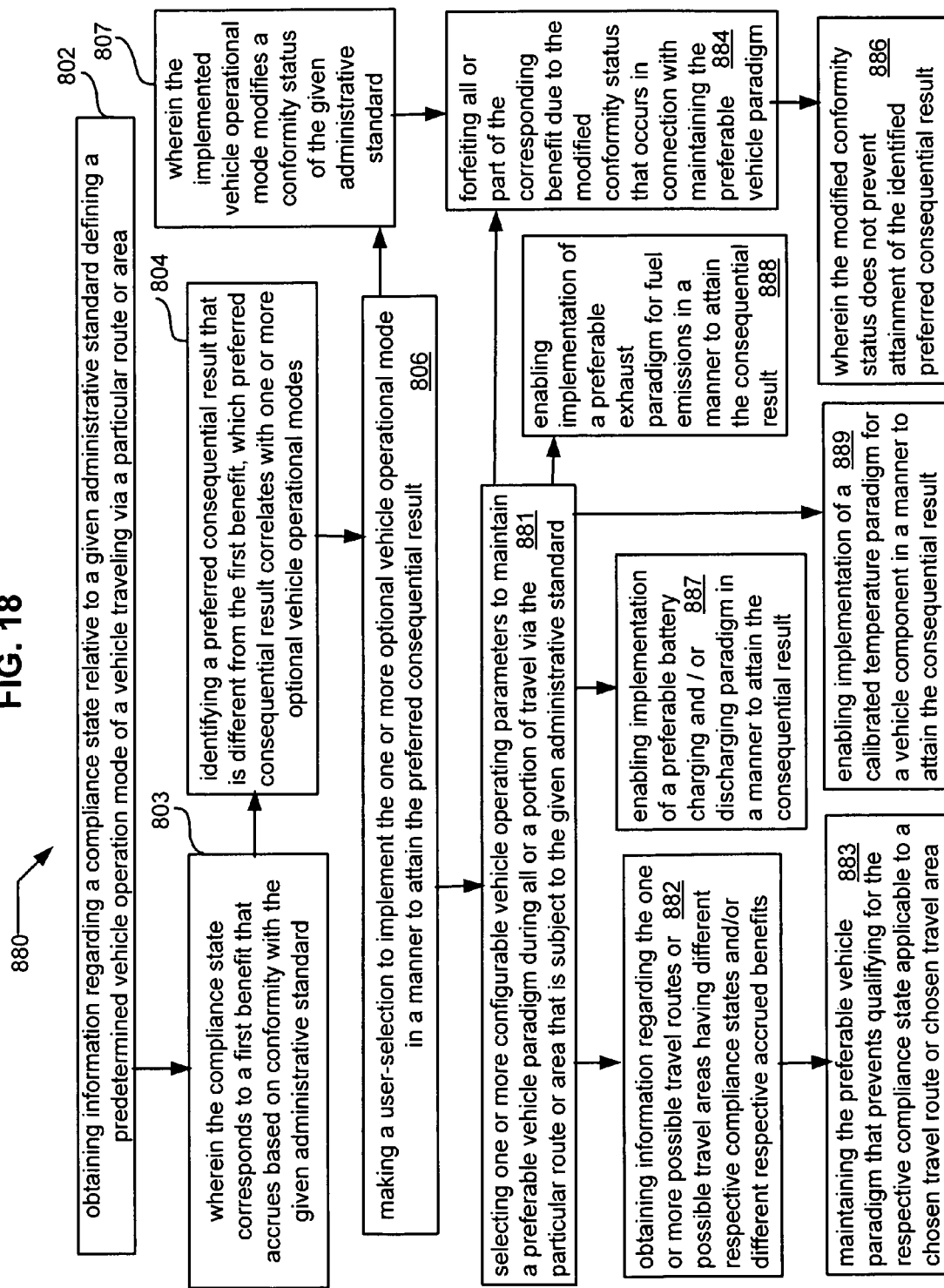


FIG. 19

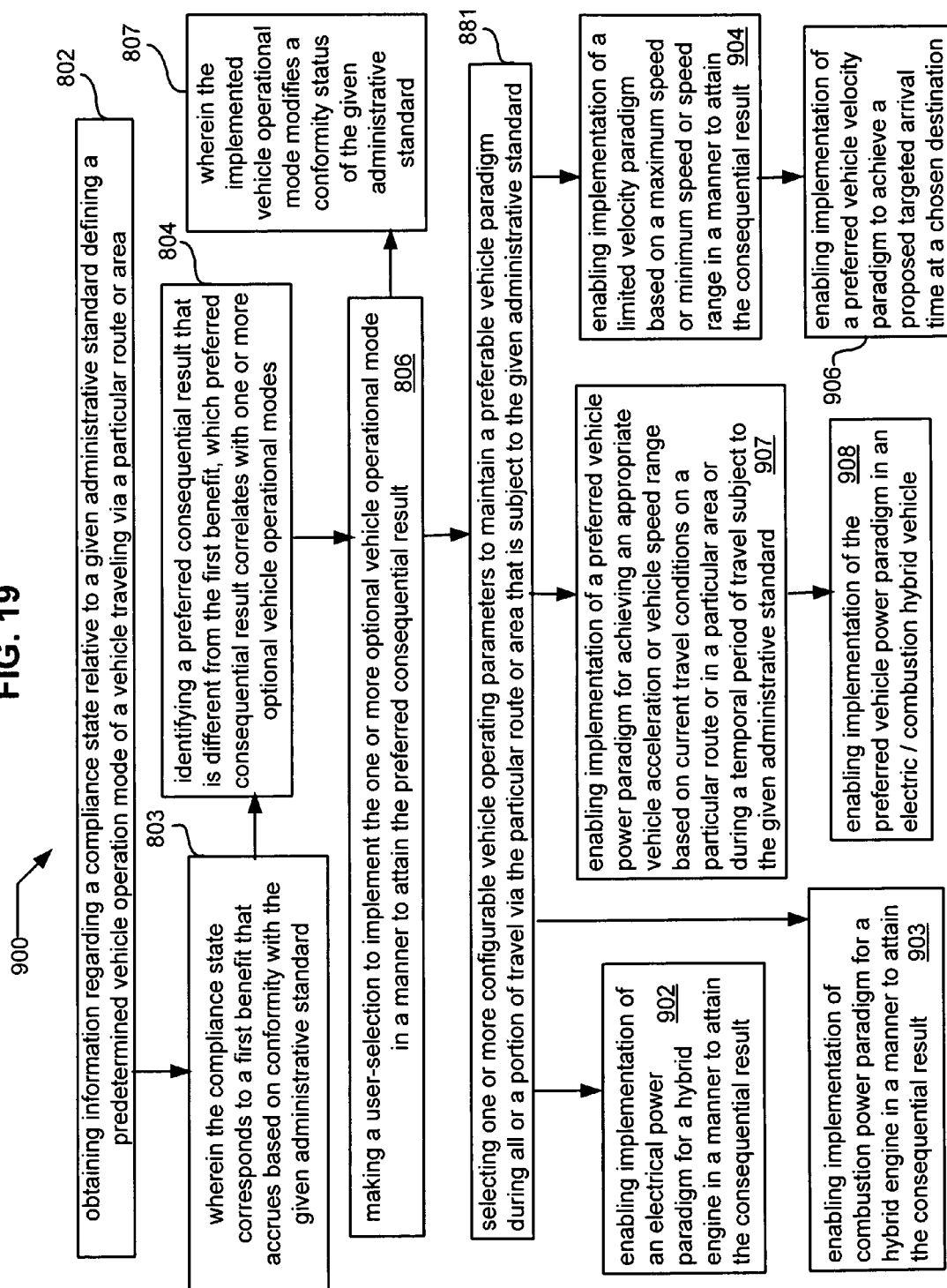


FIG. 20

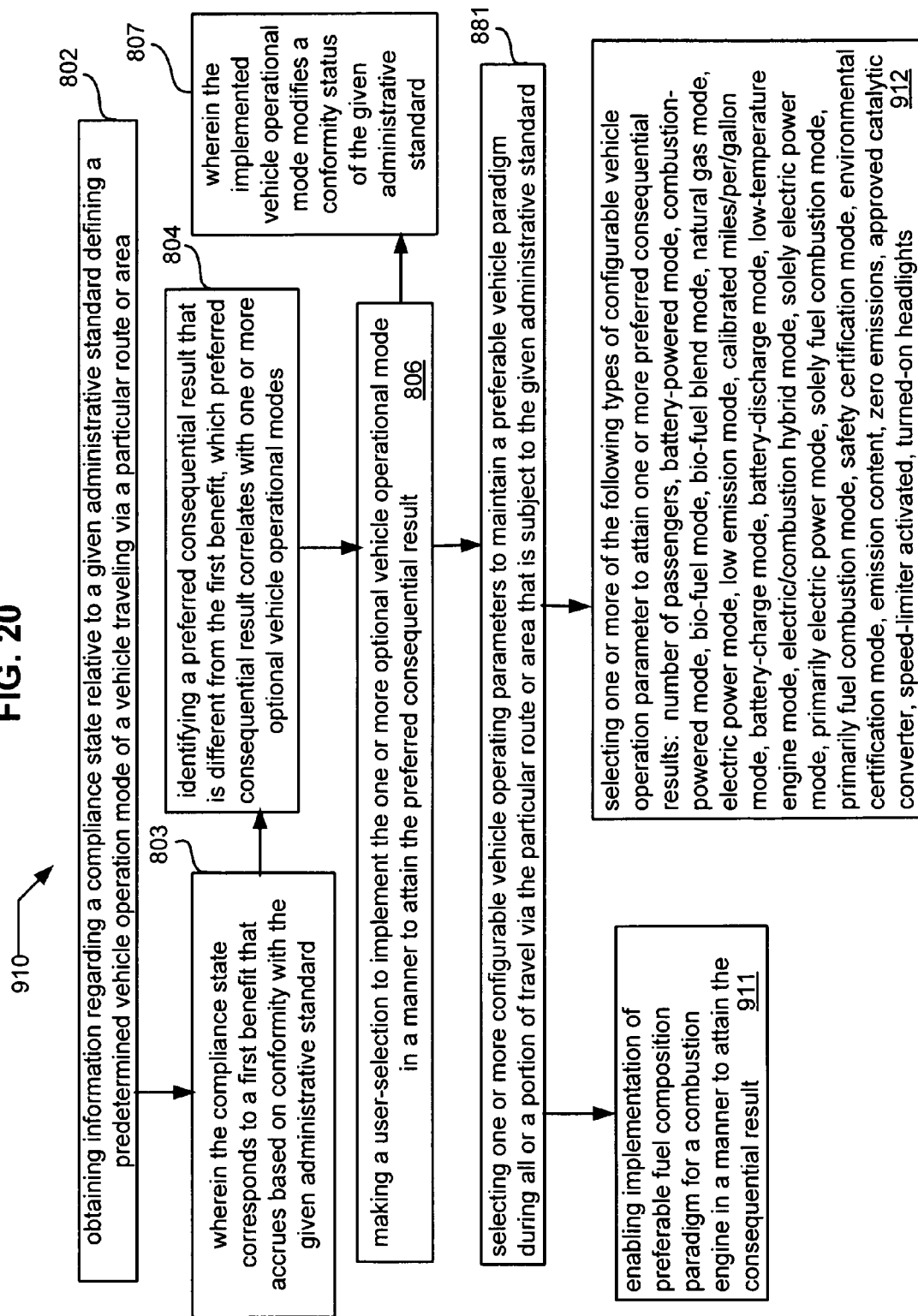


FIG. 21

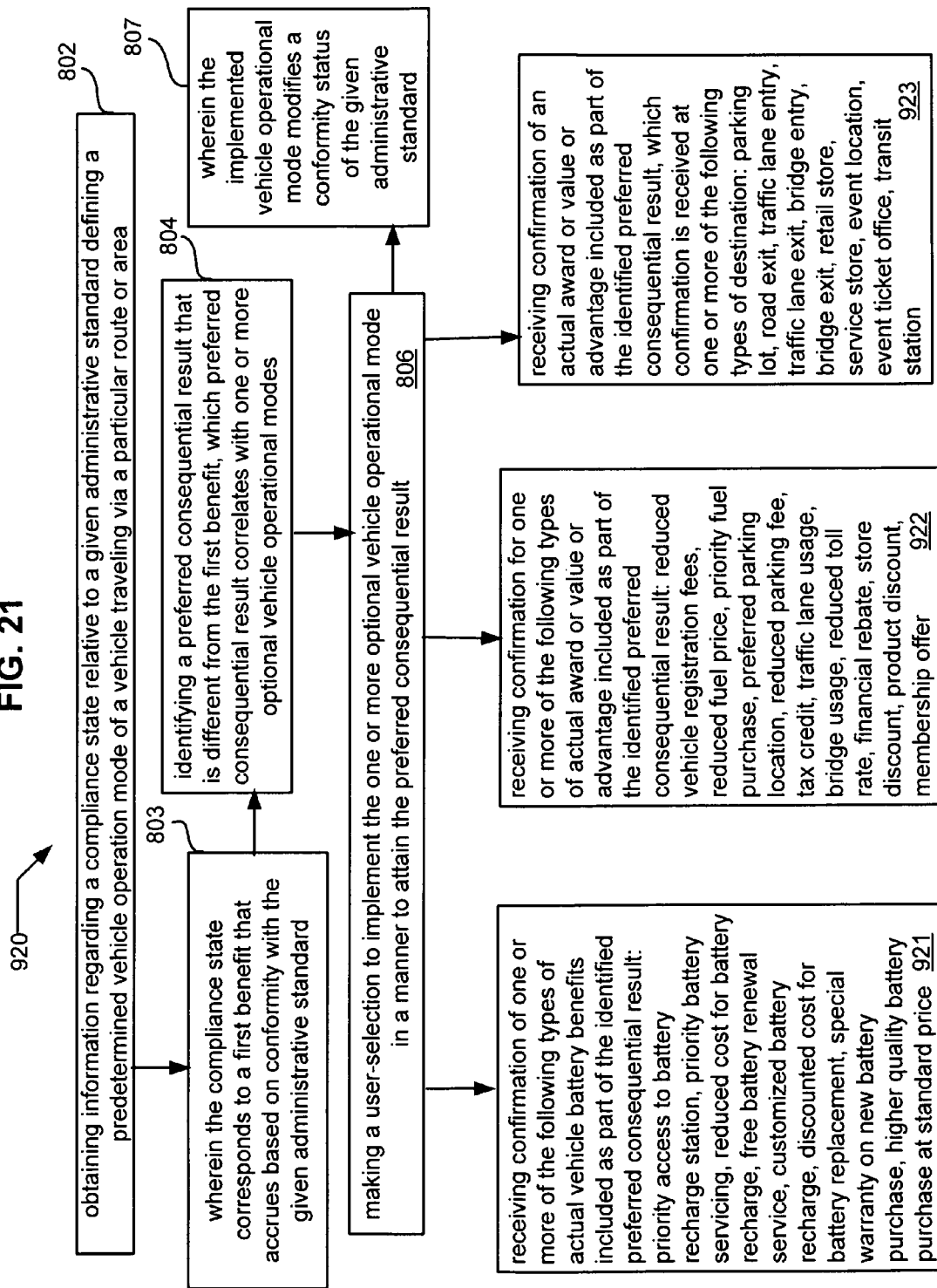


FIG. 22

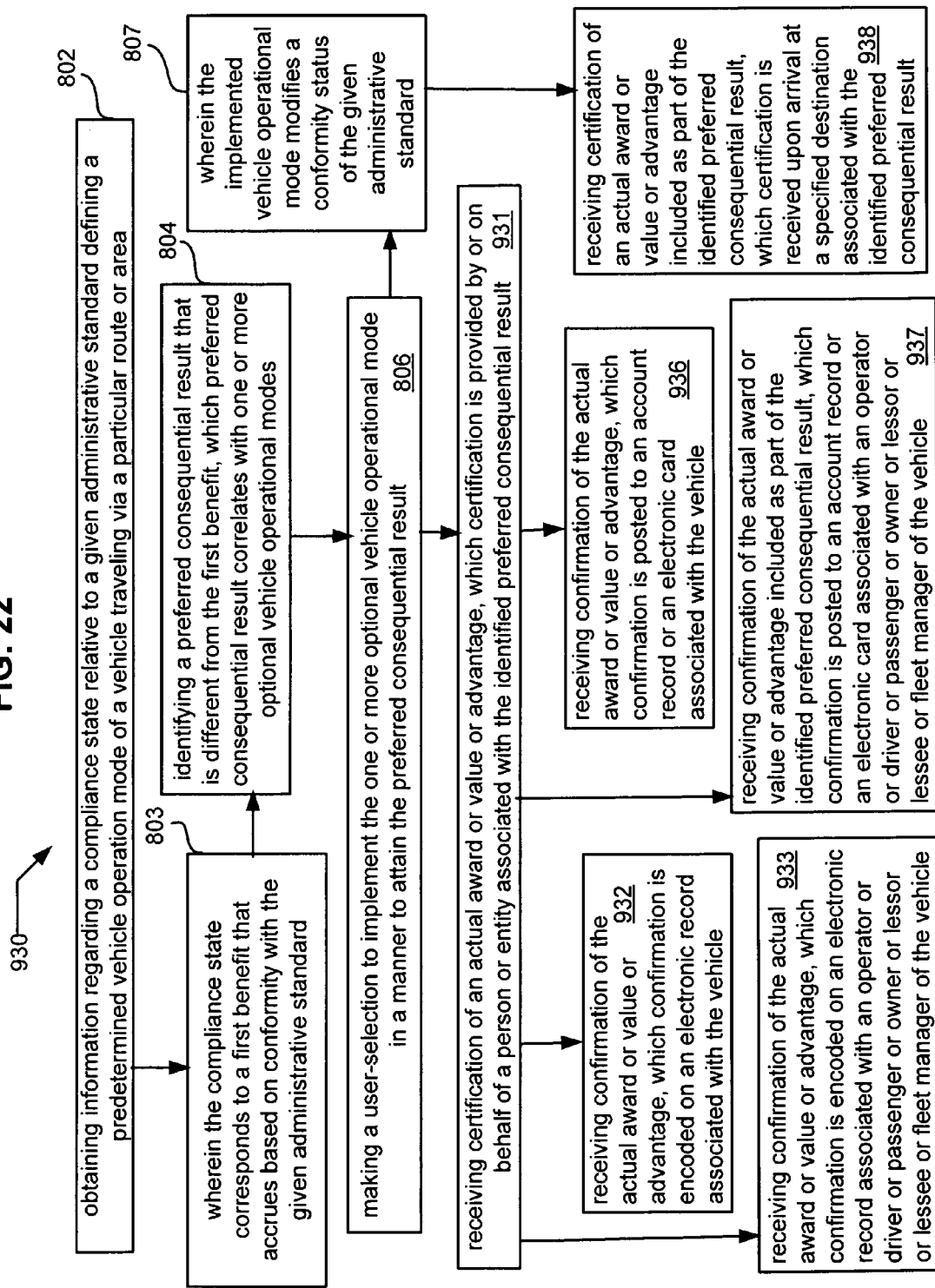


FIG. 23

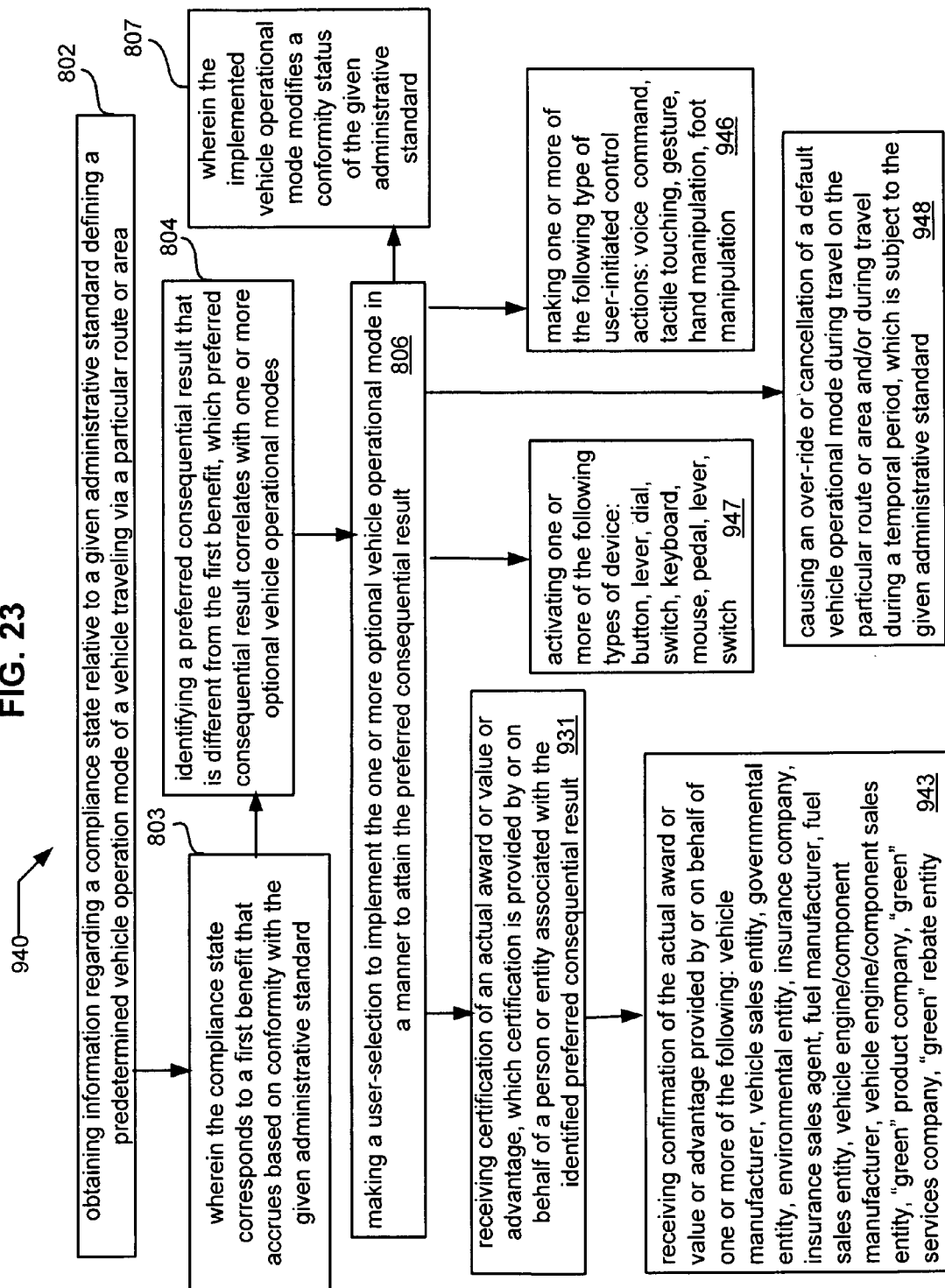


FIG. 24

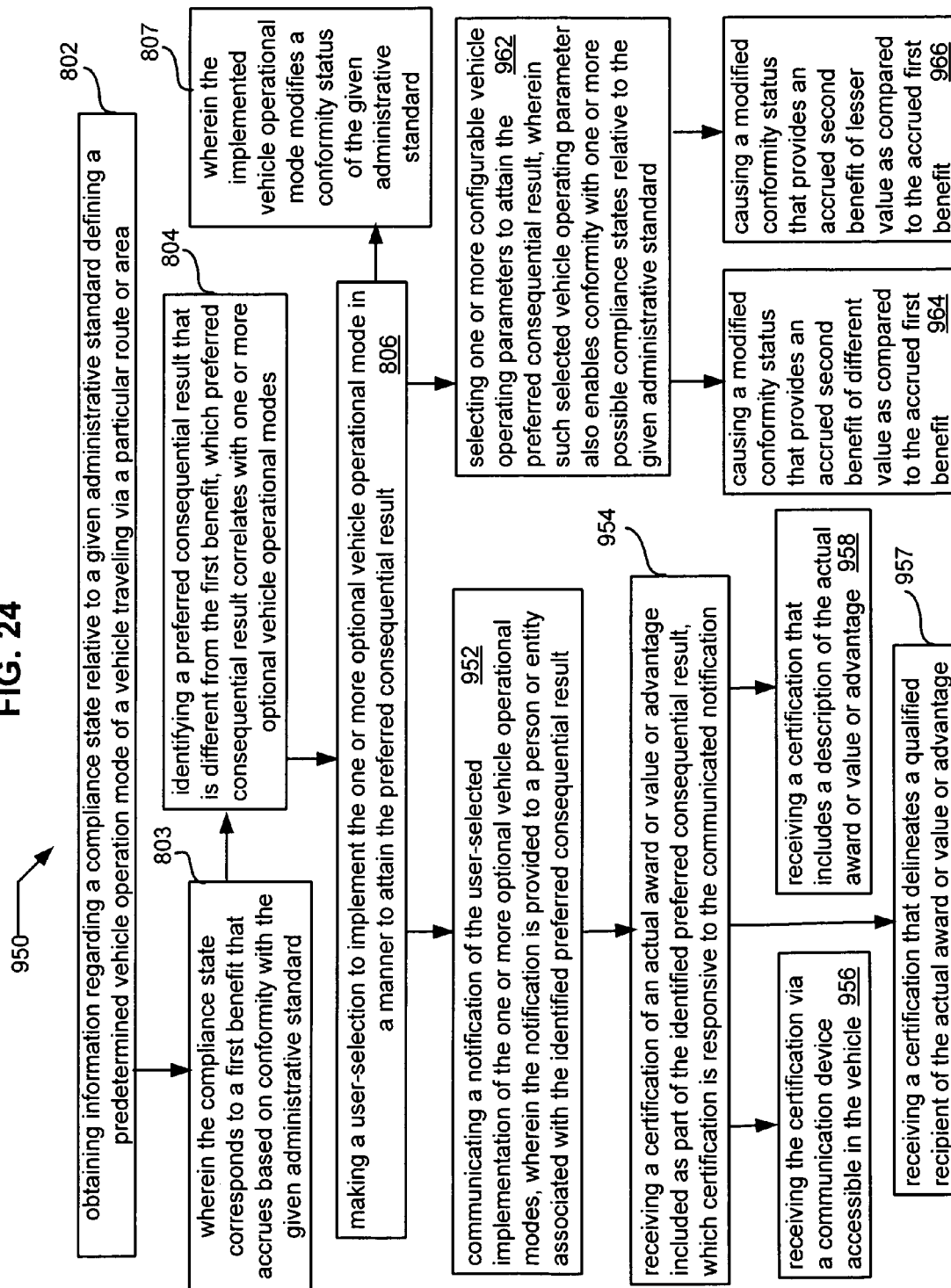


FIG. 25

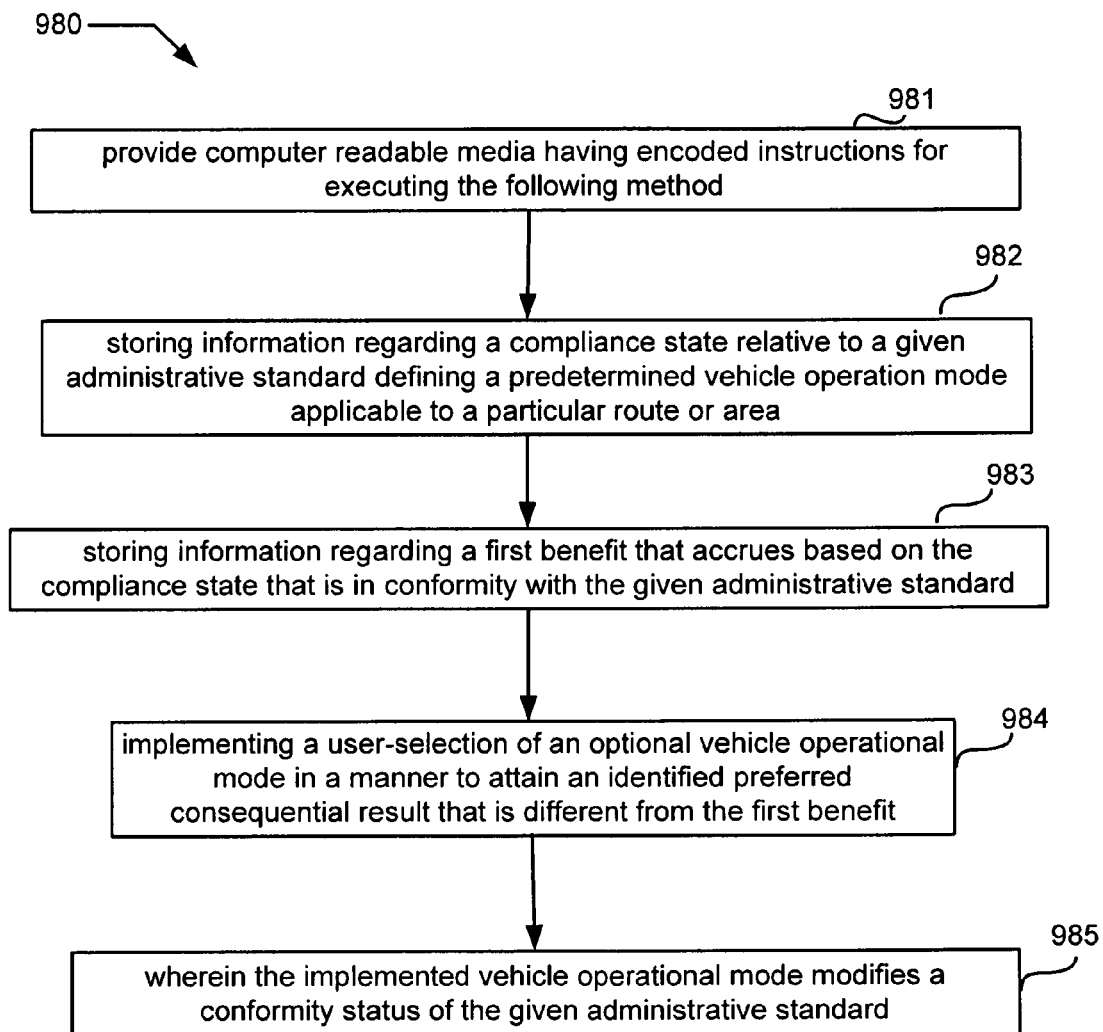


FIG. 26

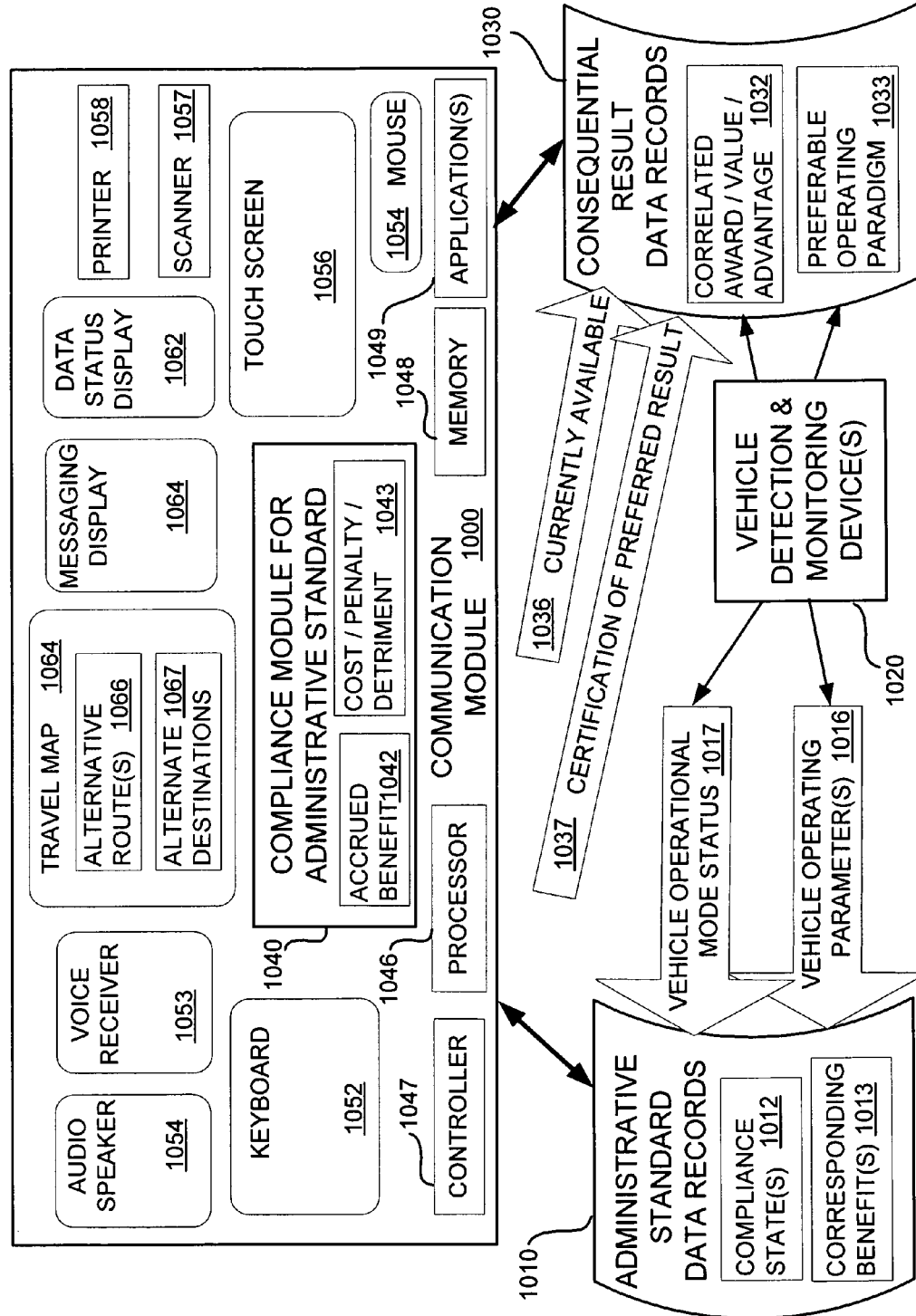


FIG. 27 PROCESSED MATRIX DATA TABLE
FOR COMPARATIVE VEHICLE MODES

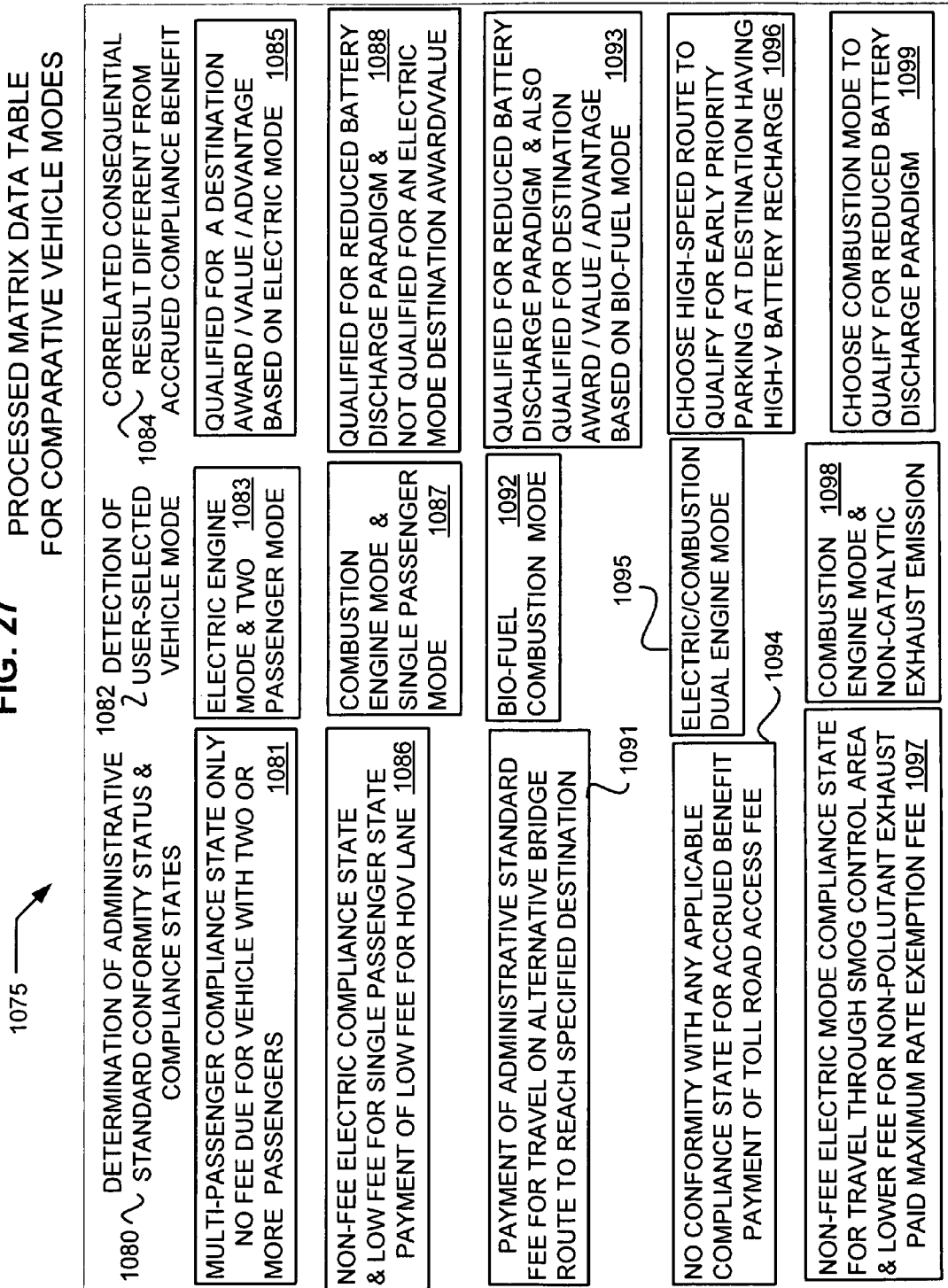


FIG. 28

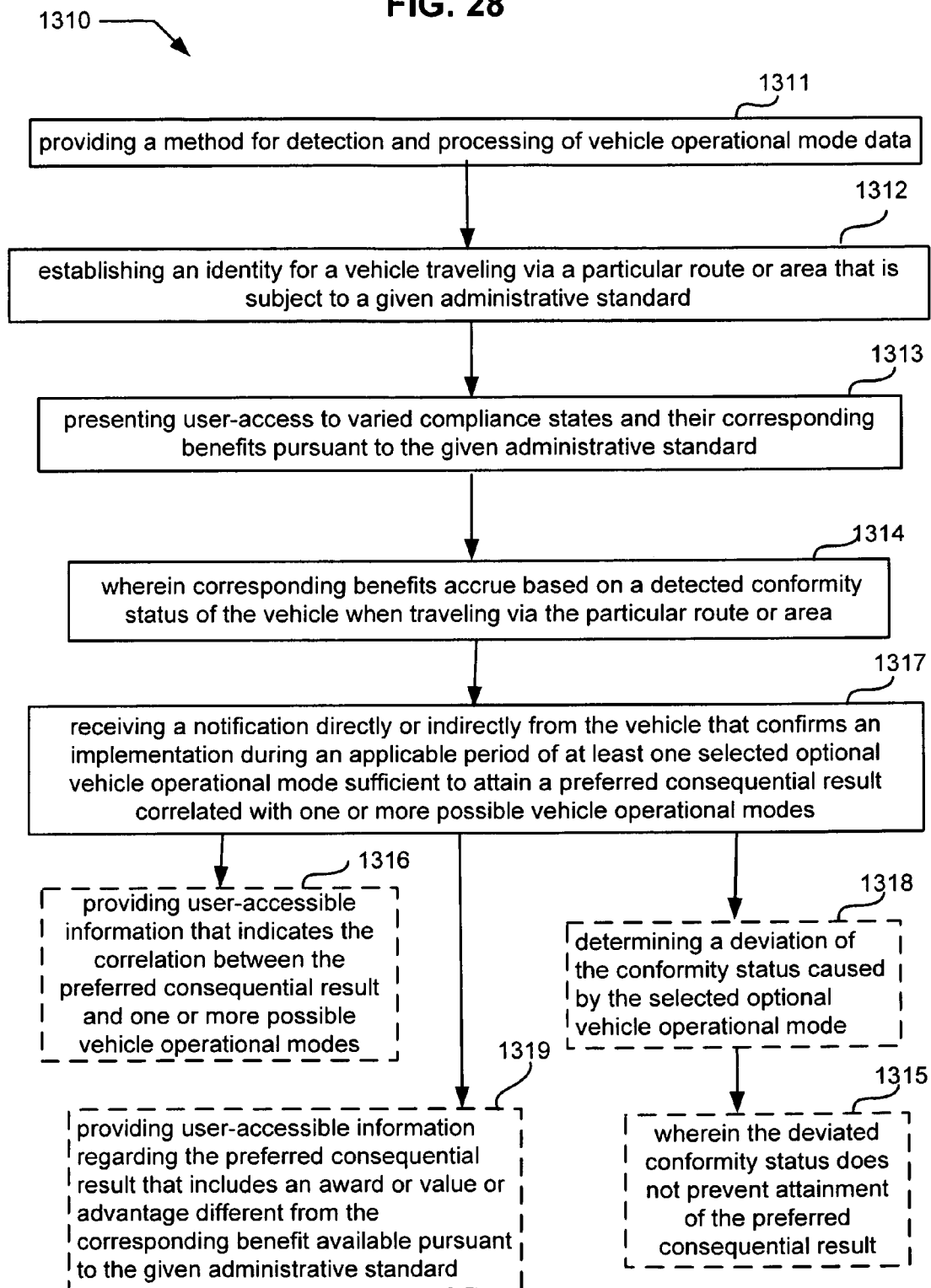


FIG. 29

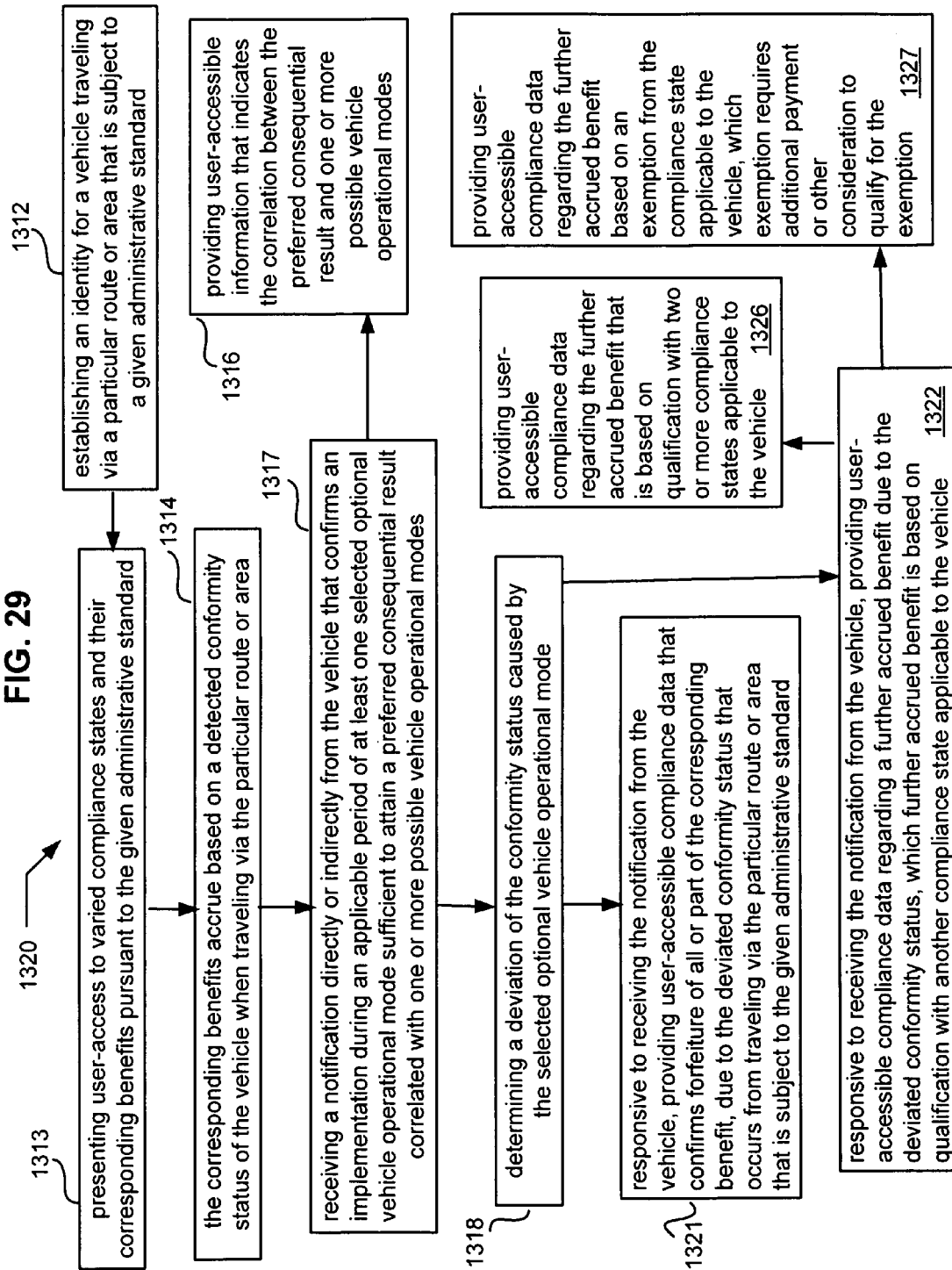


FIG. 30

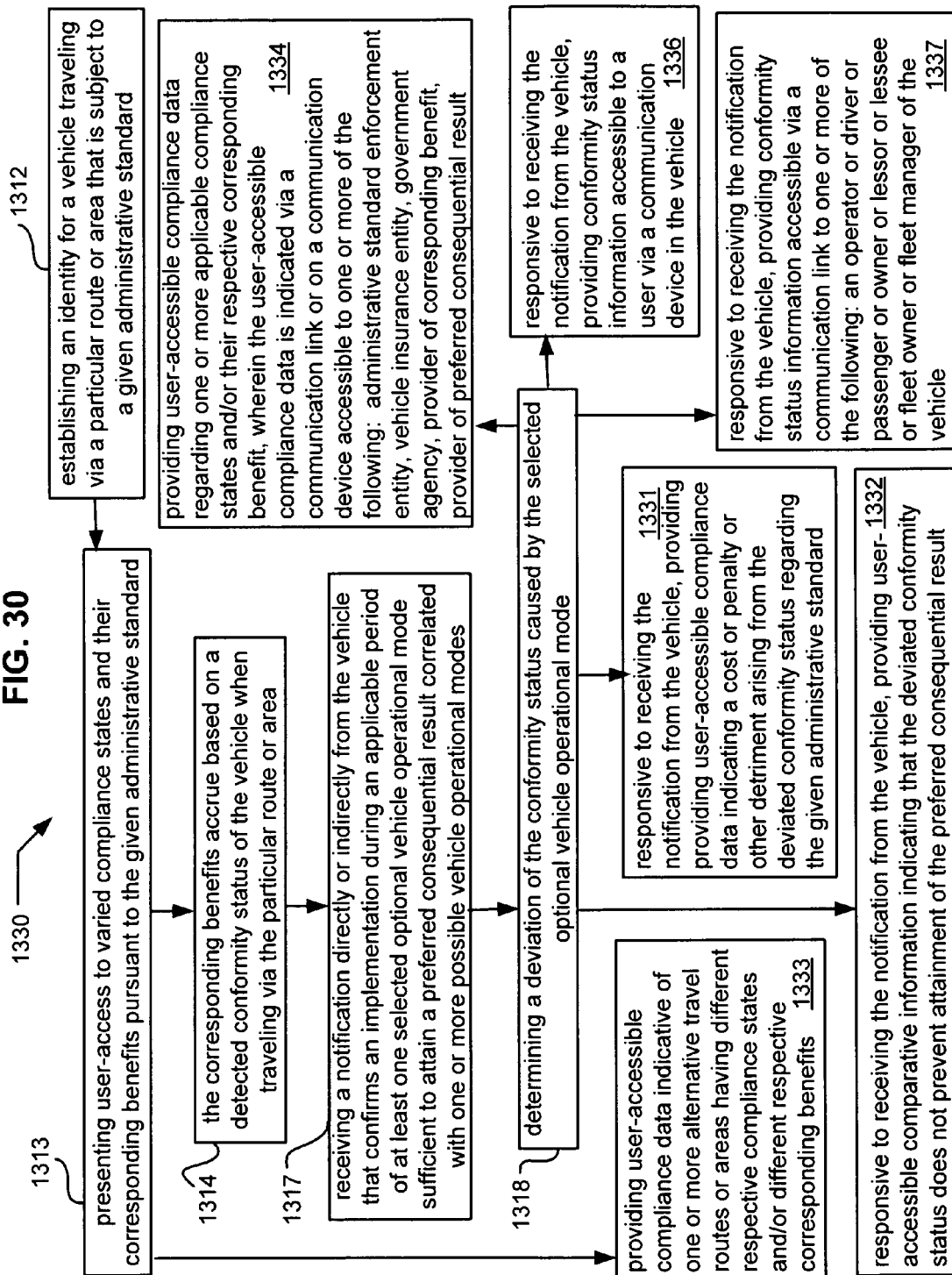


FIG. 31

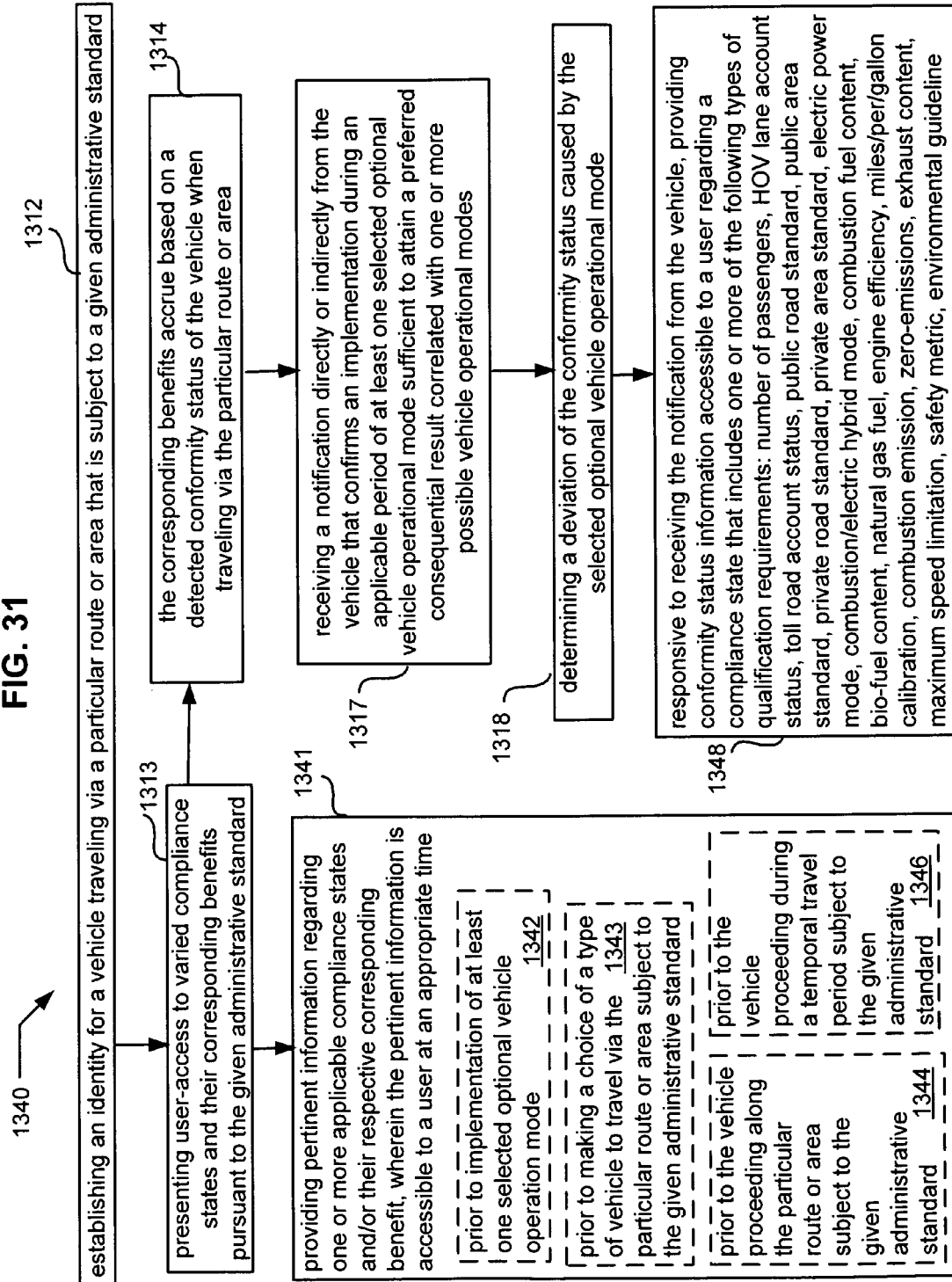


FIG. 32

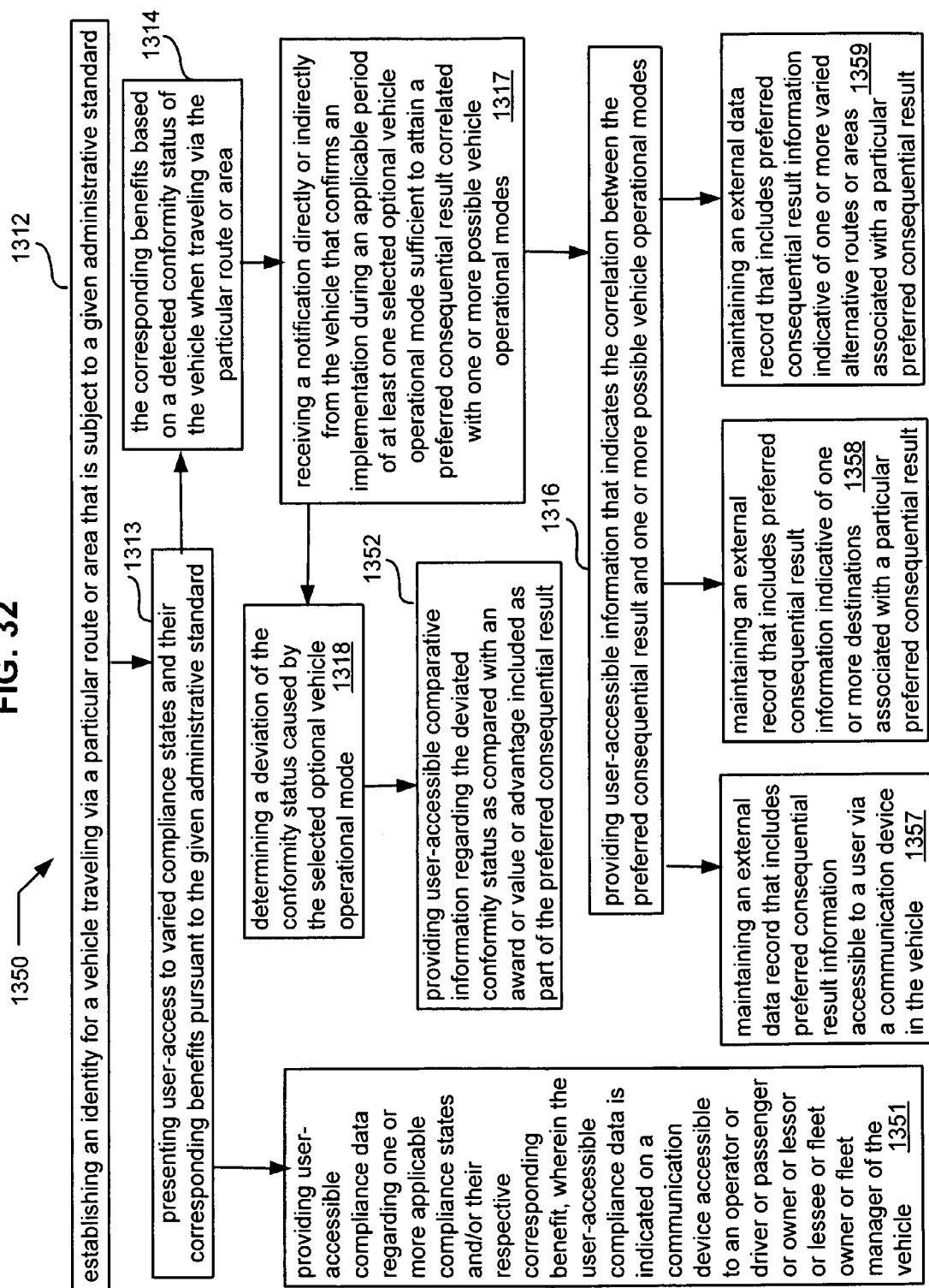


FIG. 33

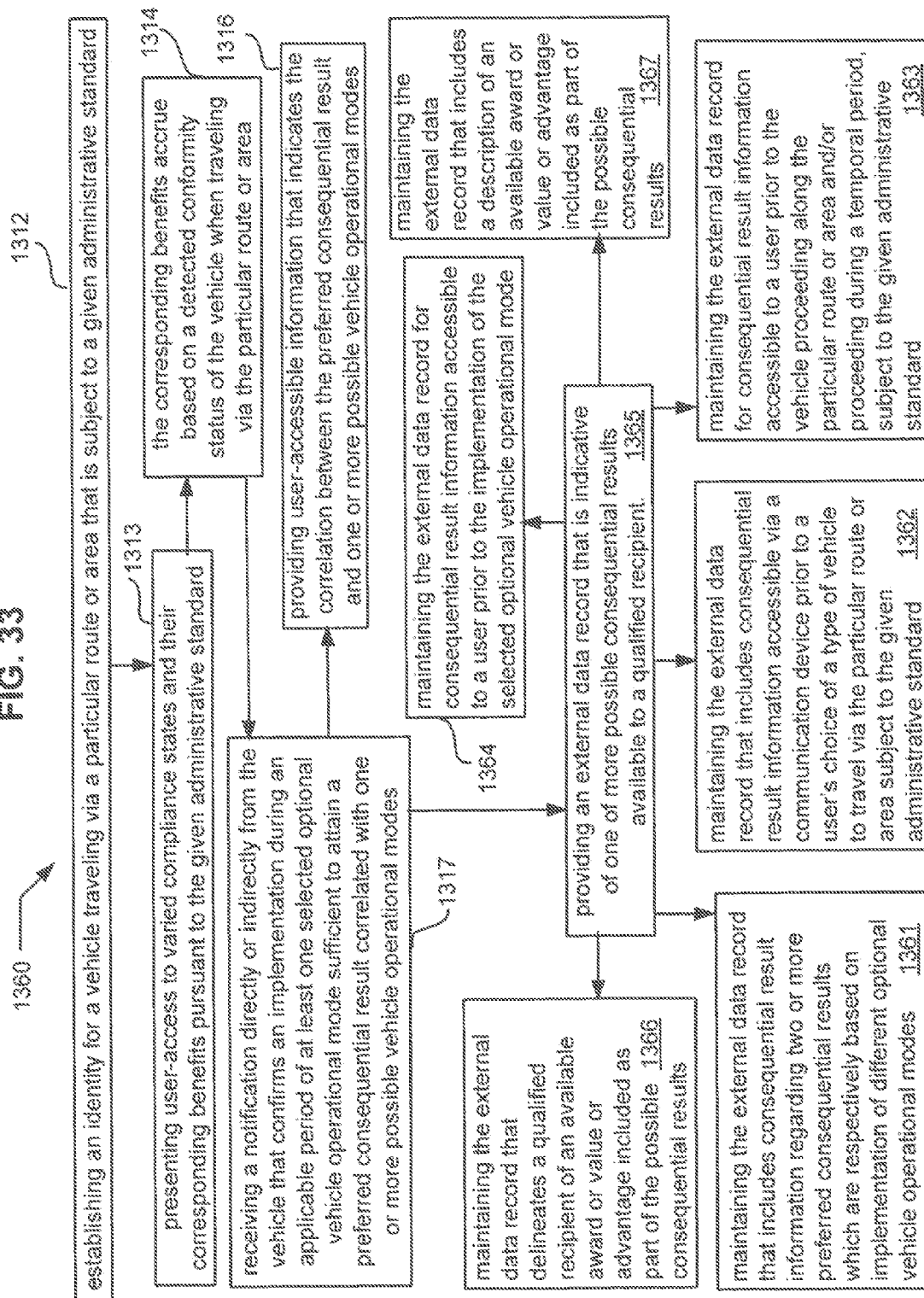


FIG. 34

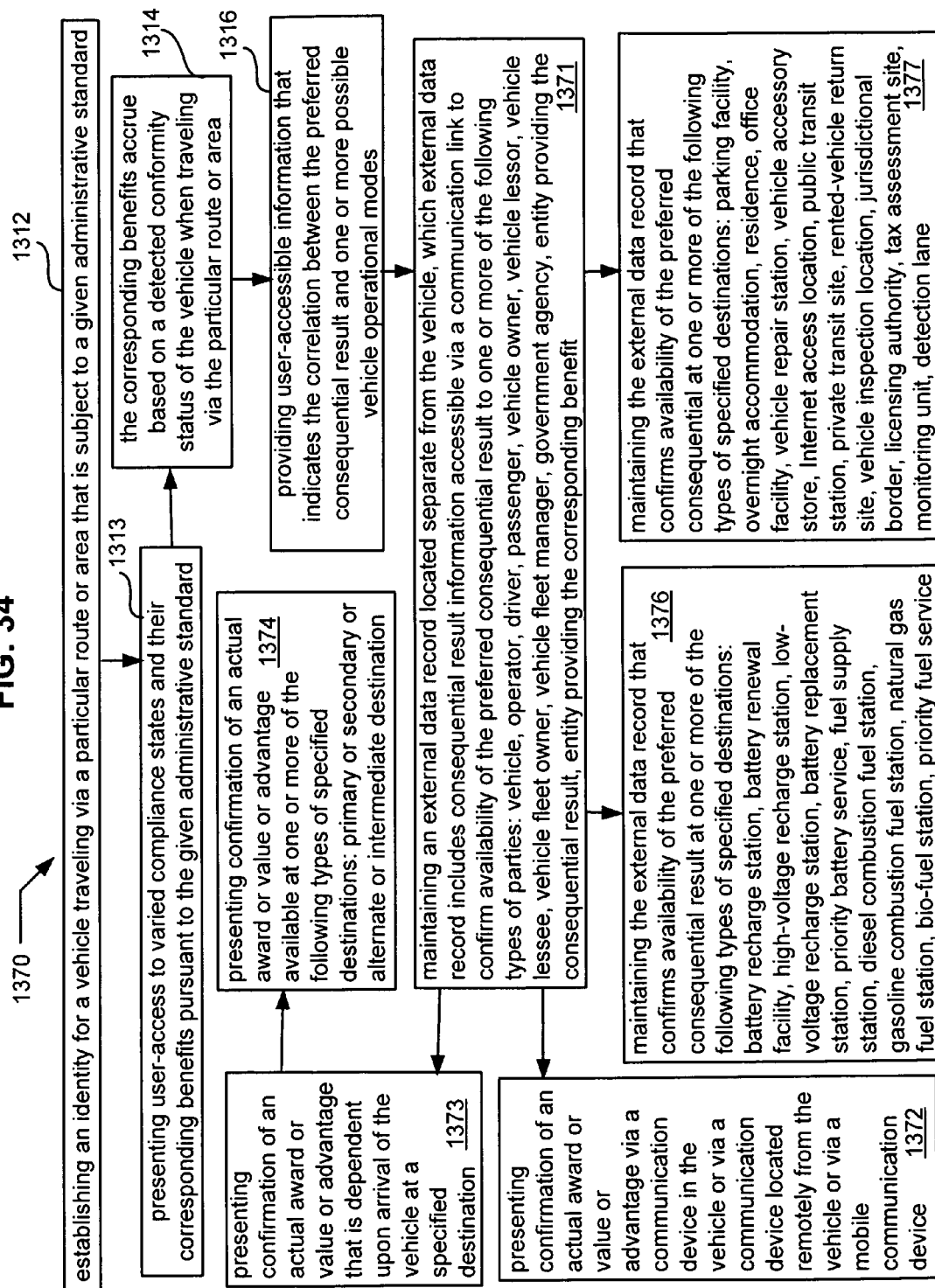


FIG. 35

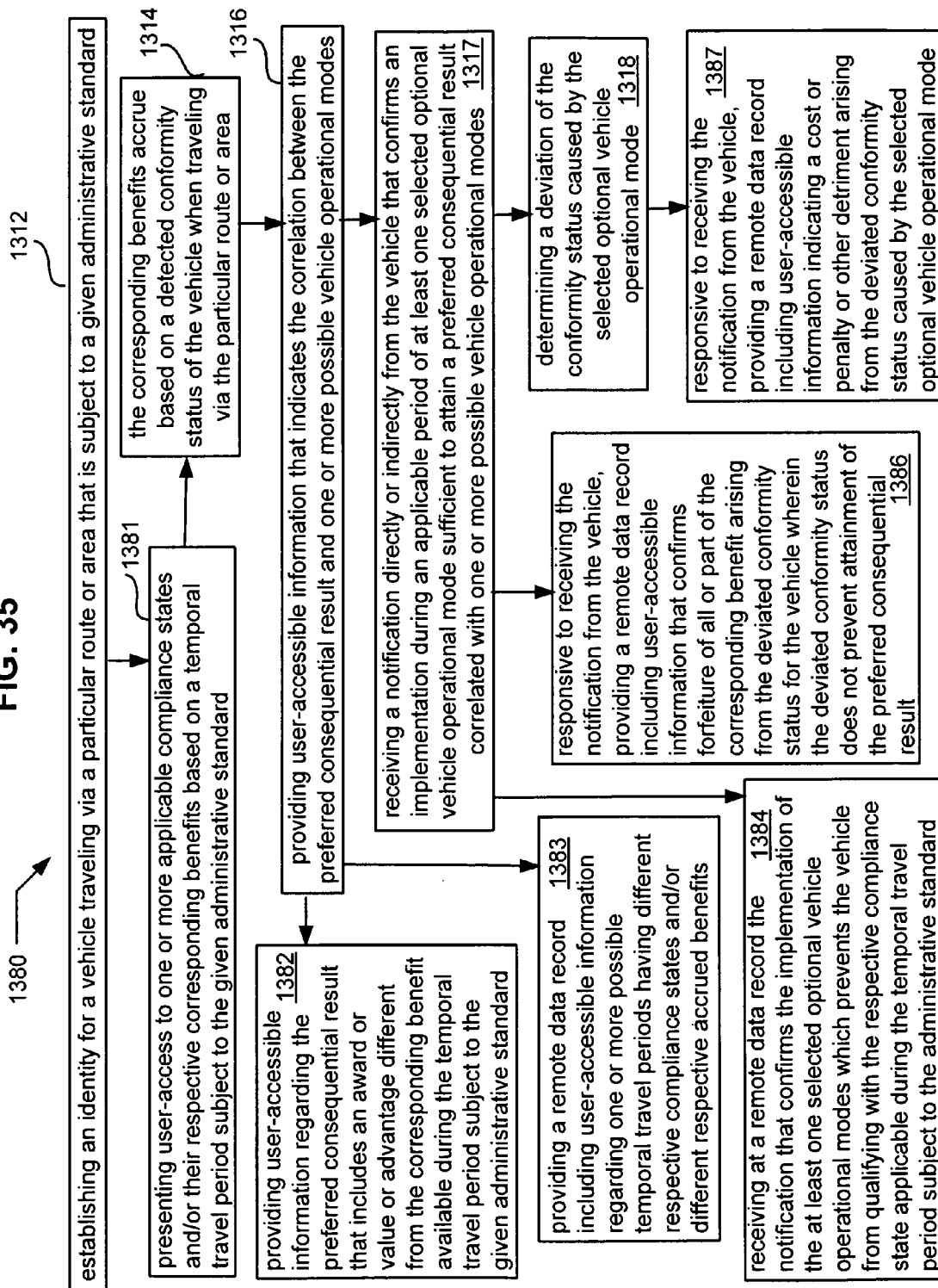


FIG. 36

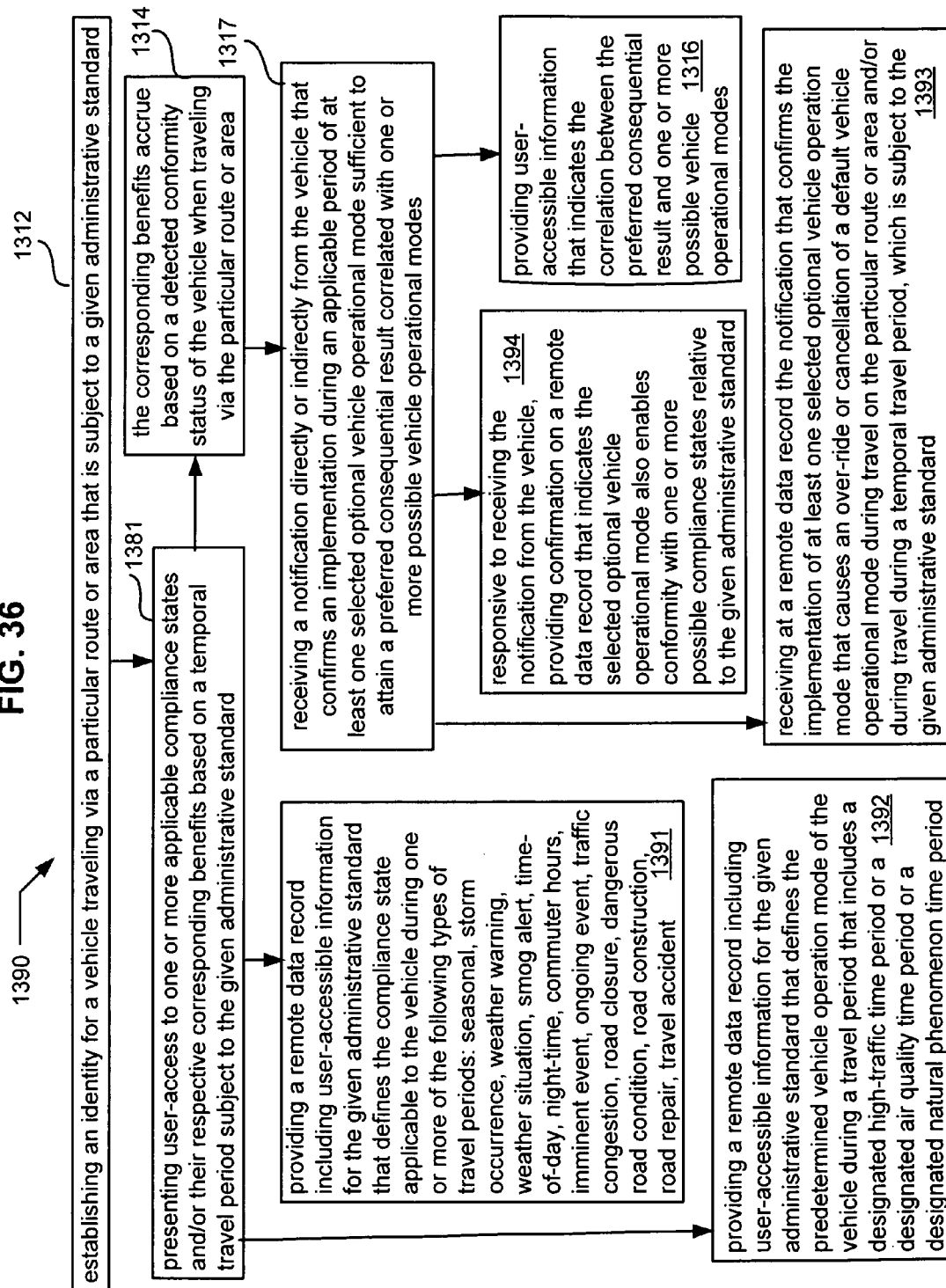


FIG. 37

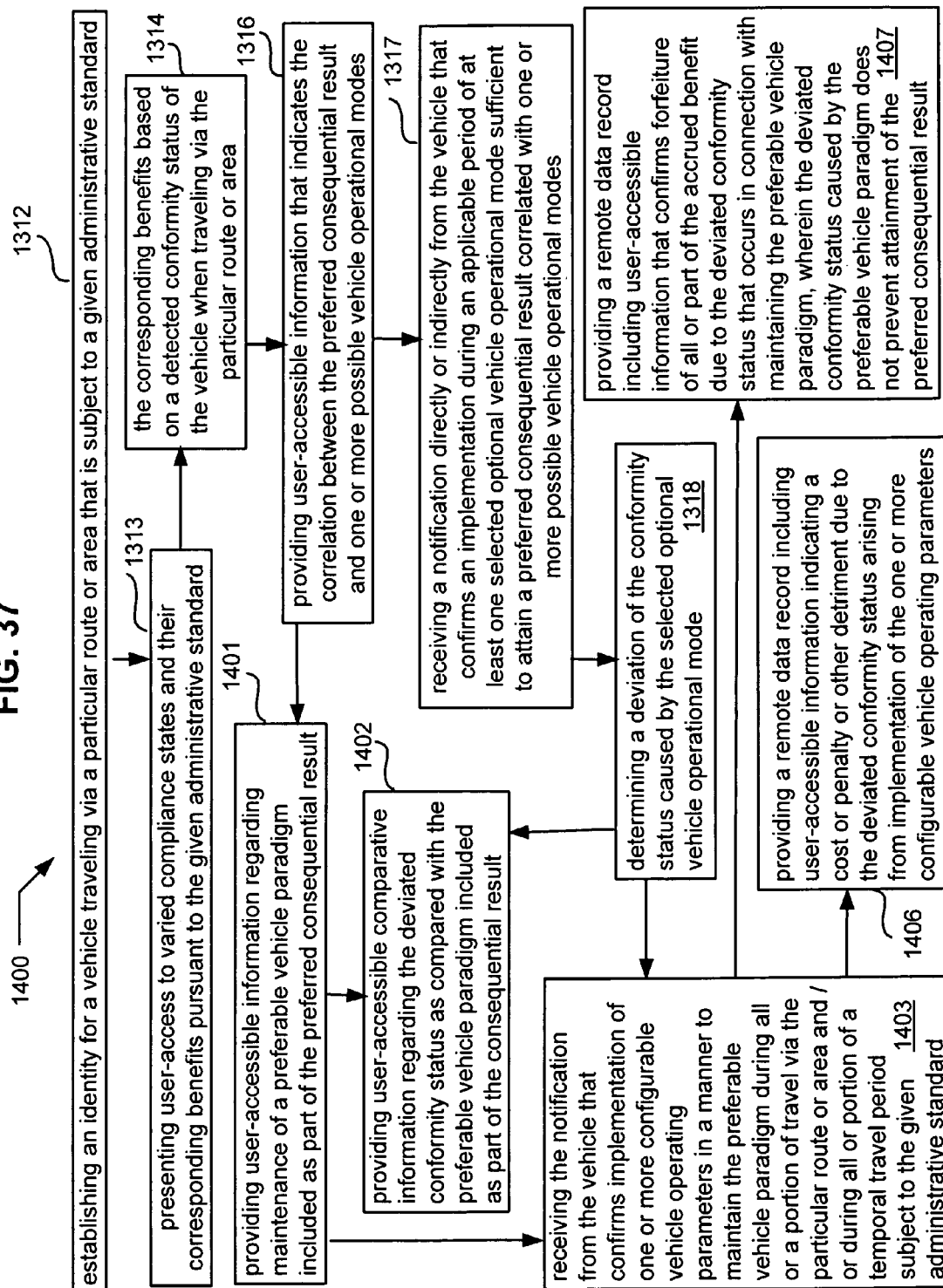


FIG. 38

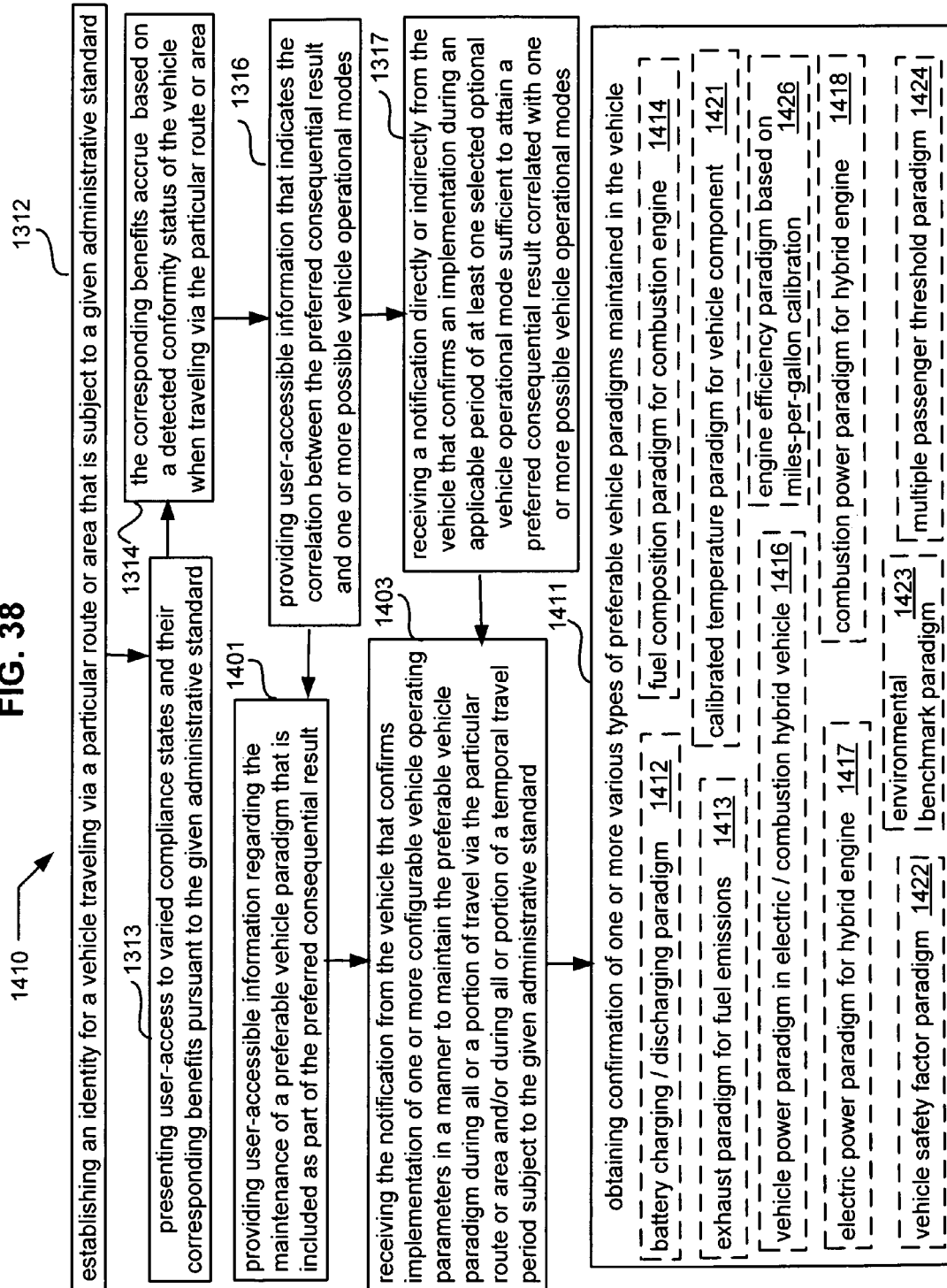


FIG. 39

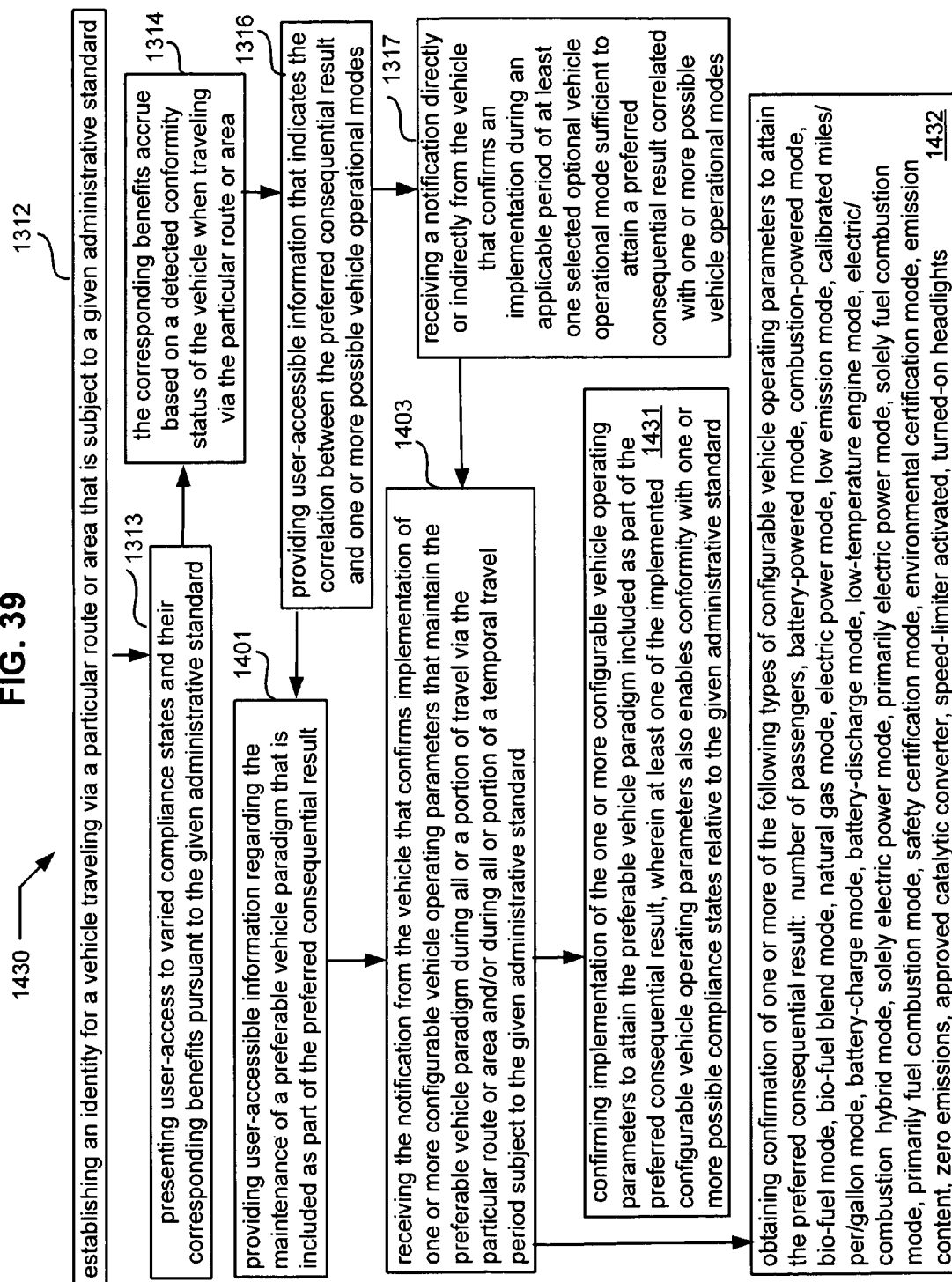


FIG. 40

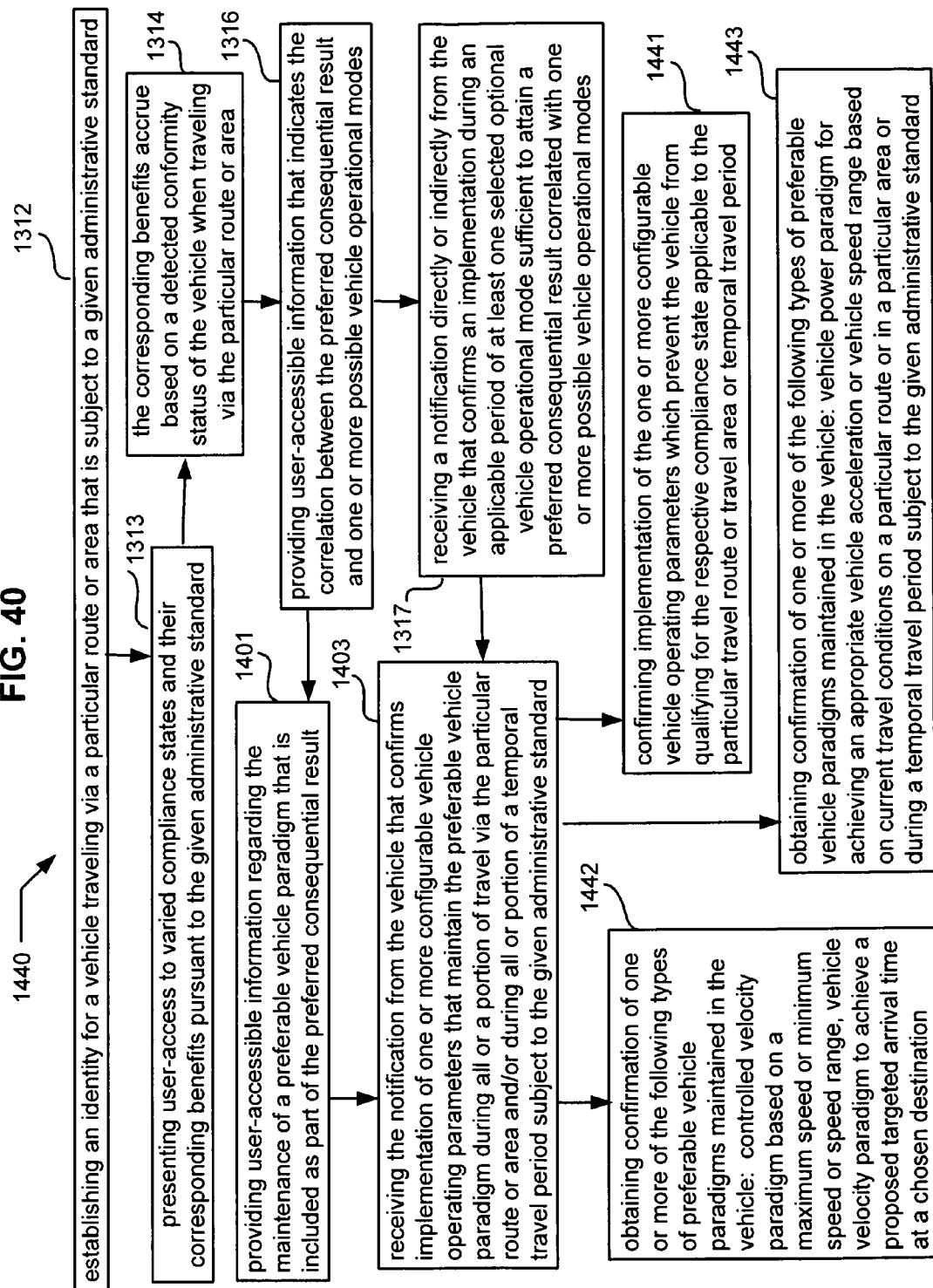


FIG. 42

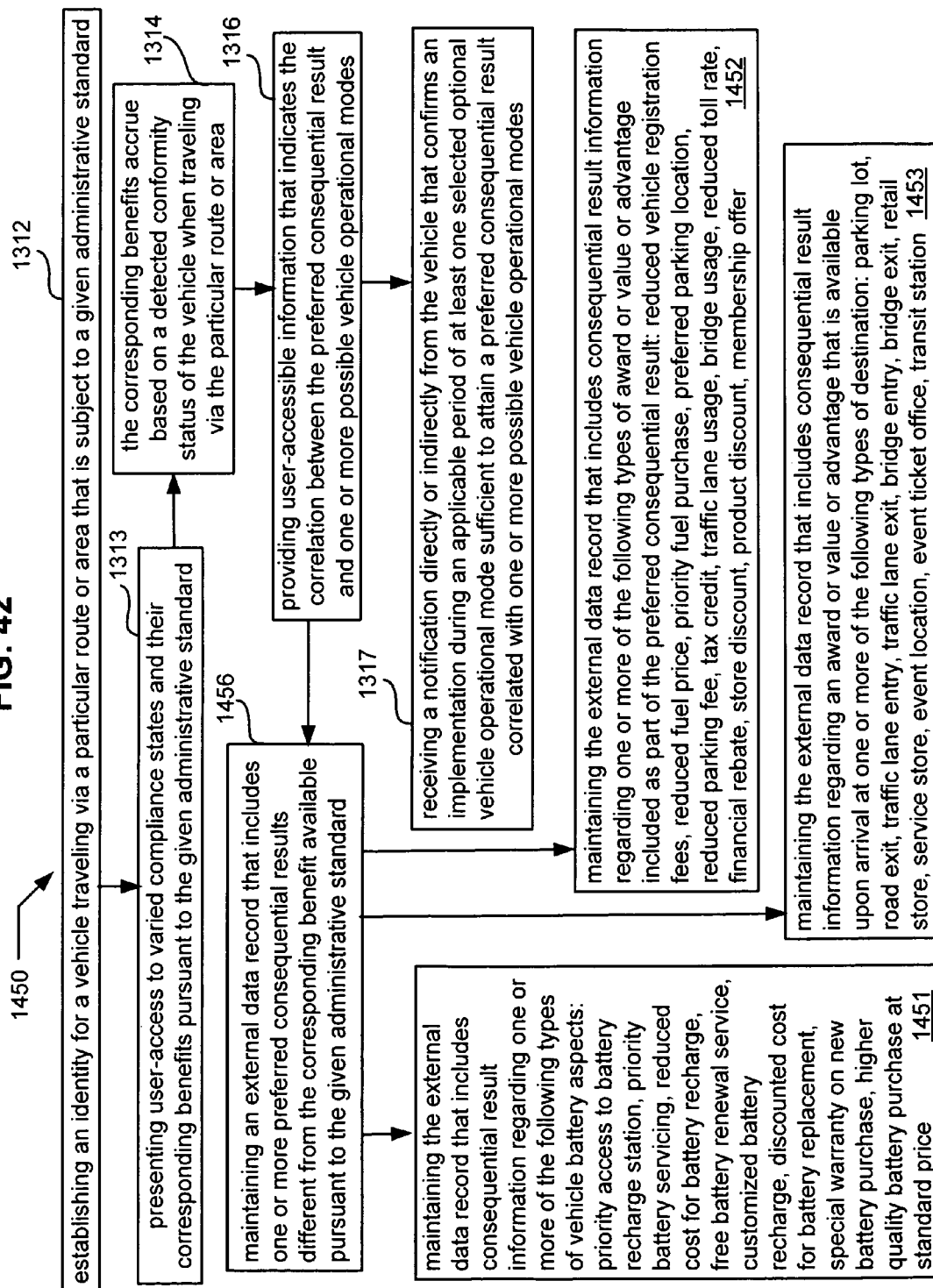


FIG. 43

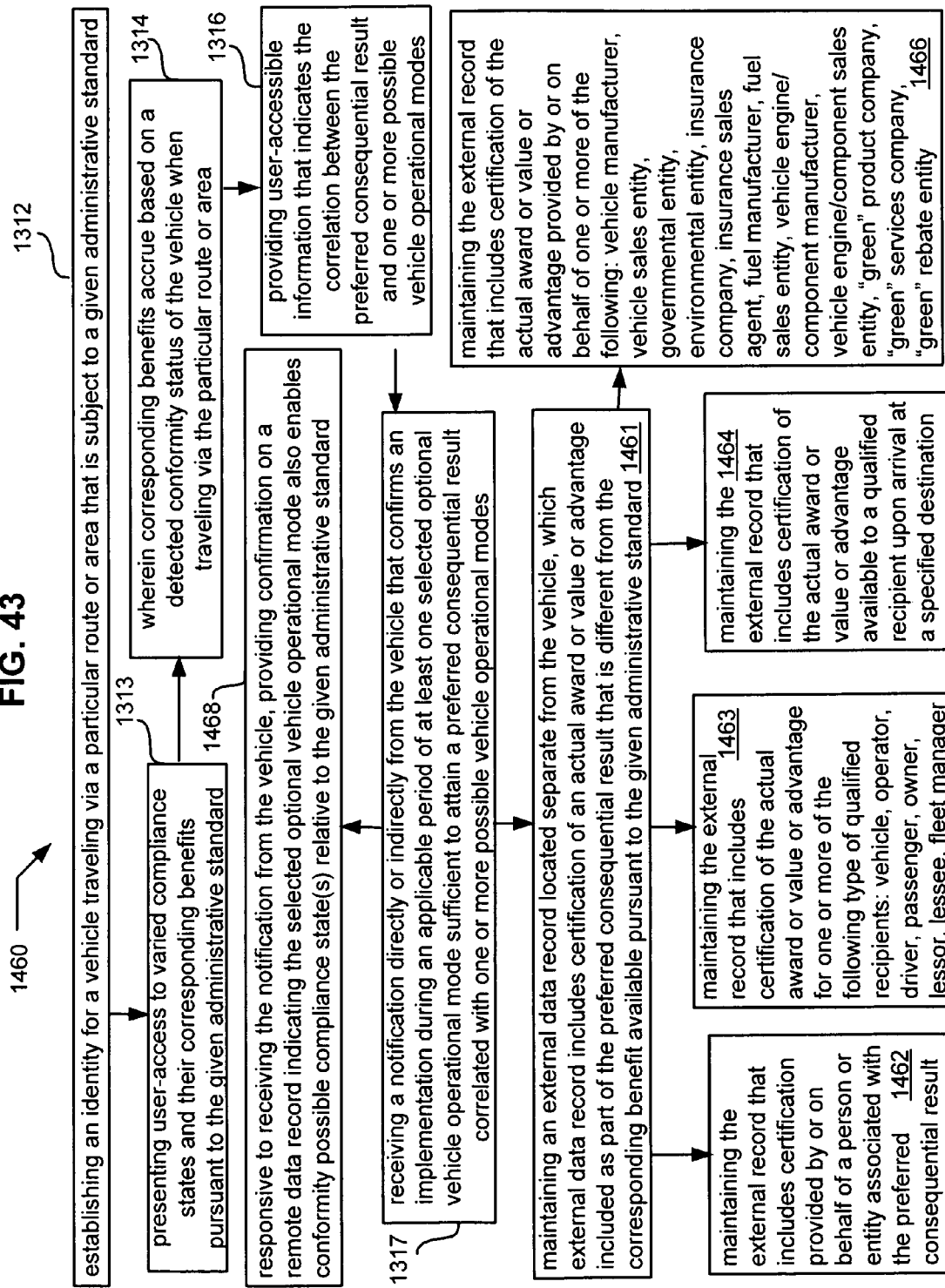


FIG. 44

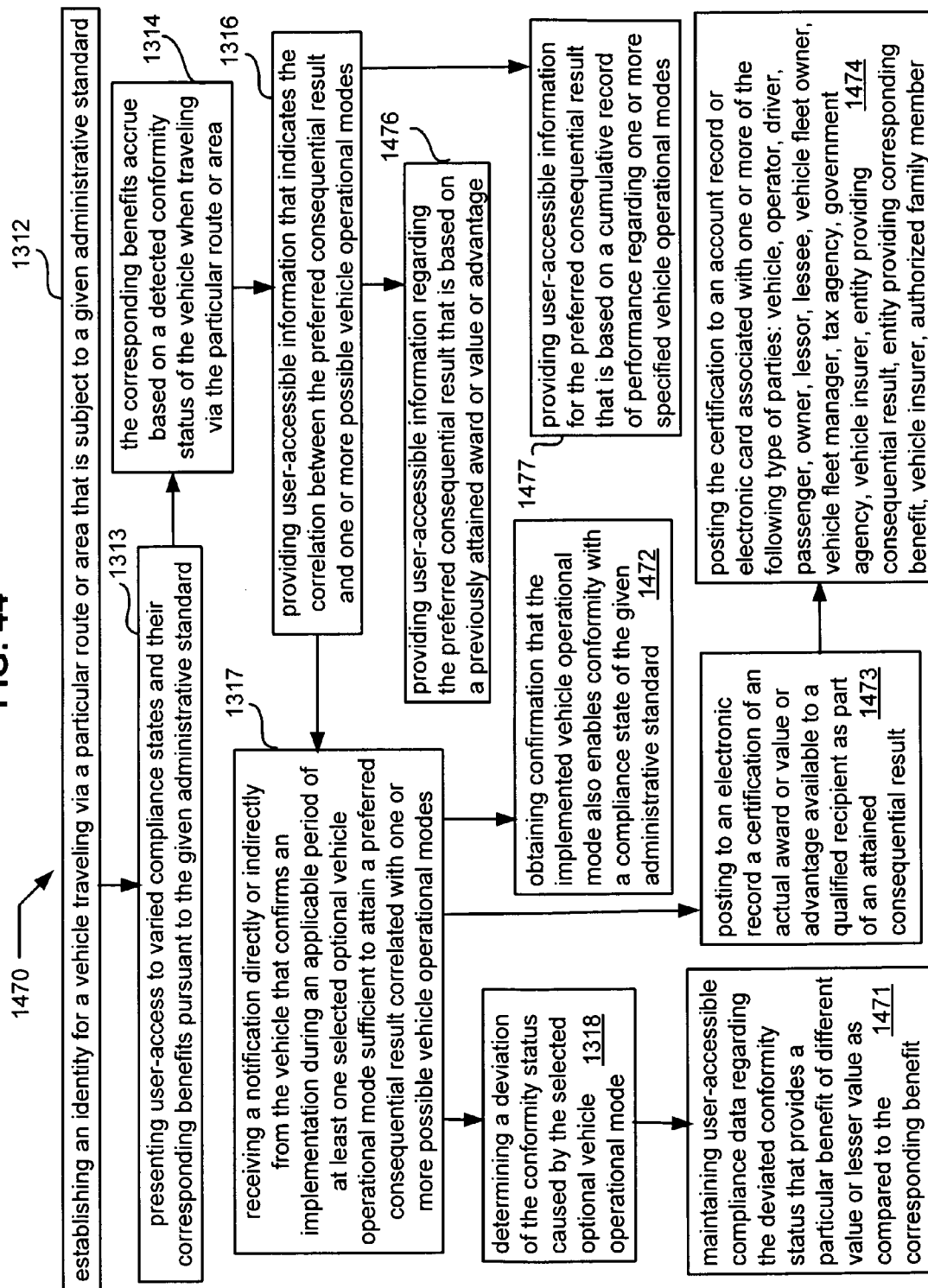


FIG. 45

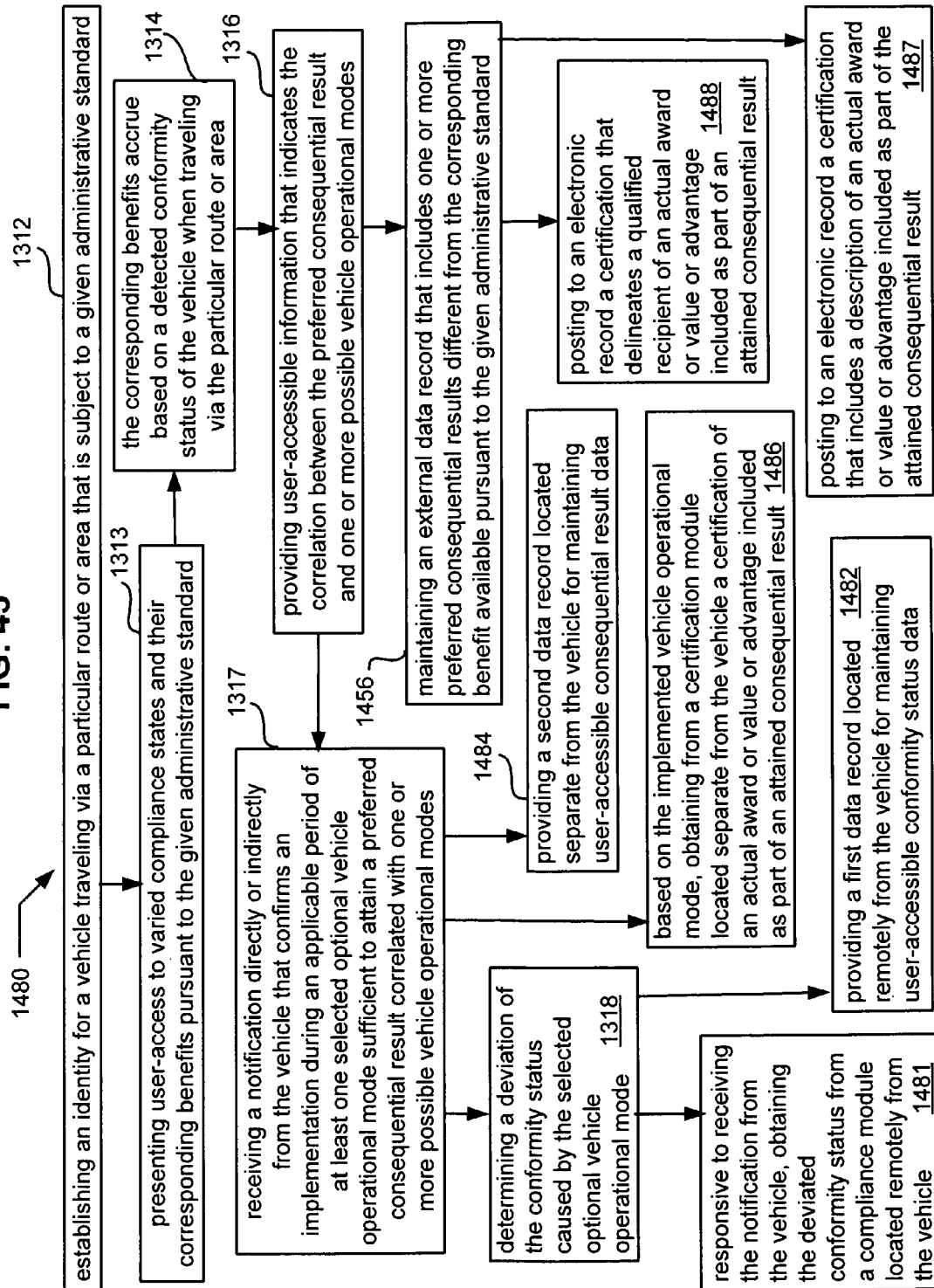


FIG. 46

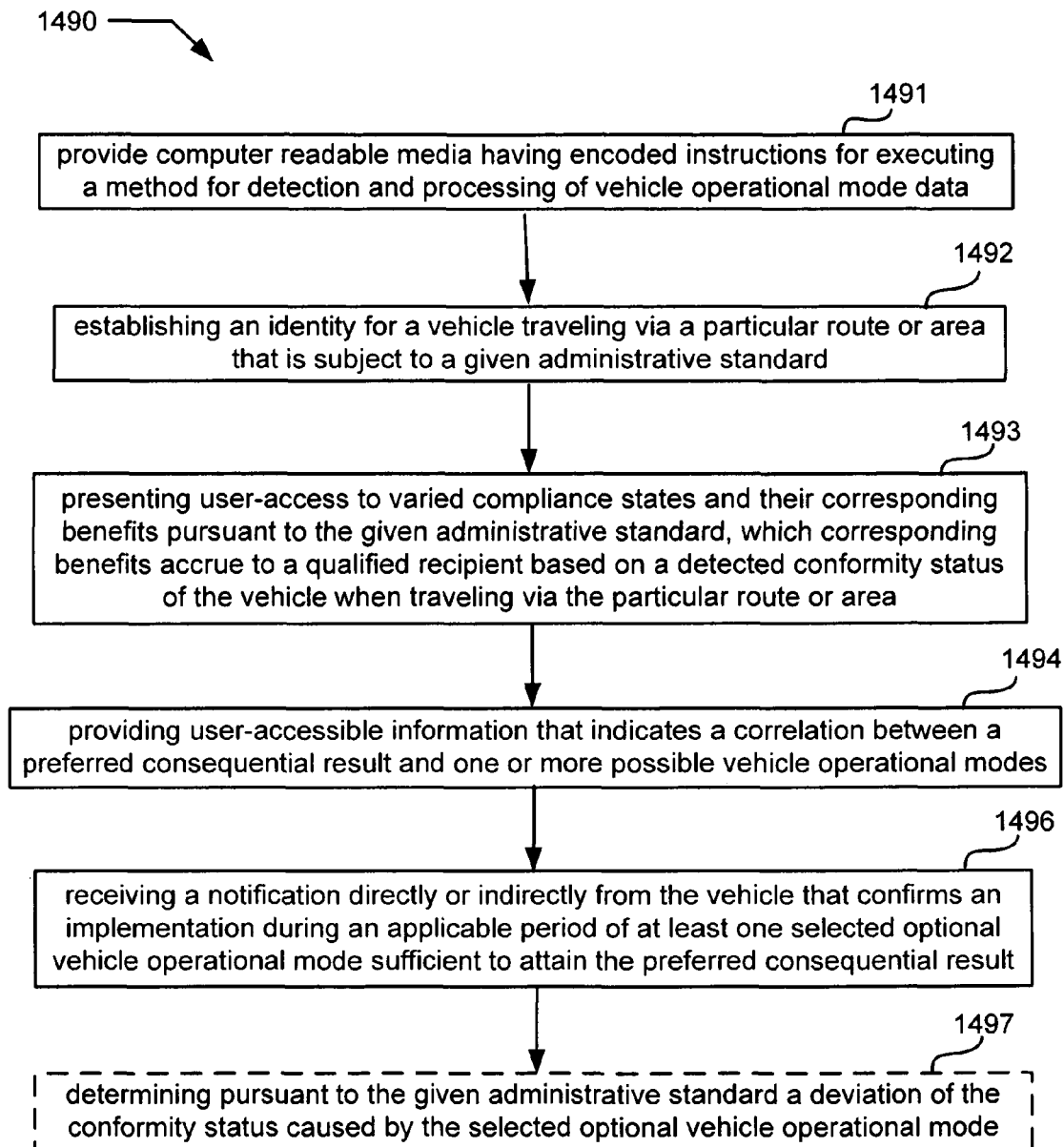


FIG. 47

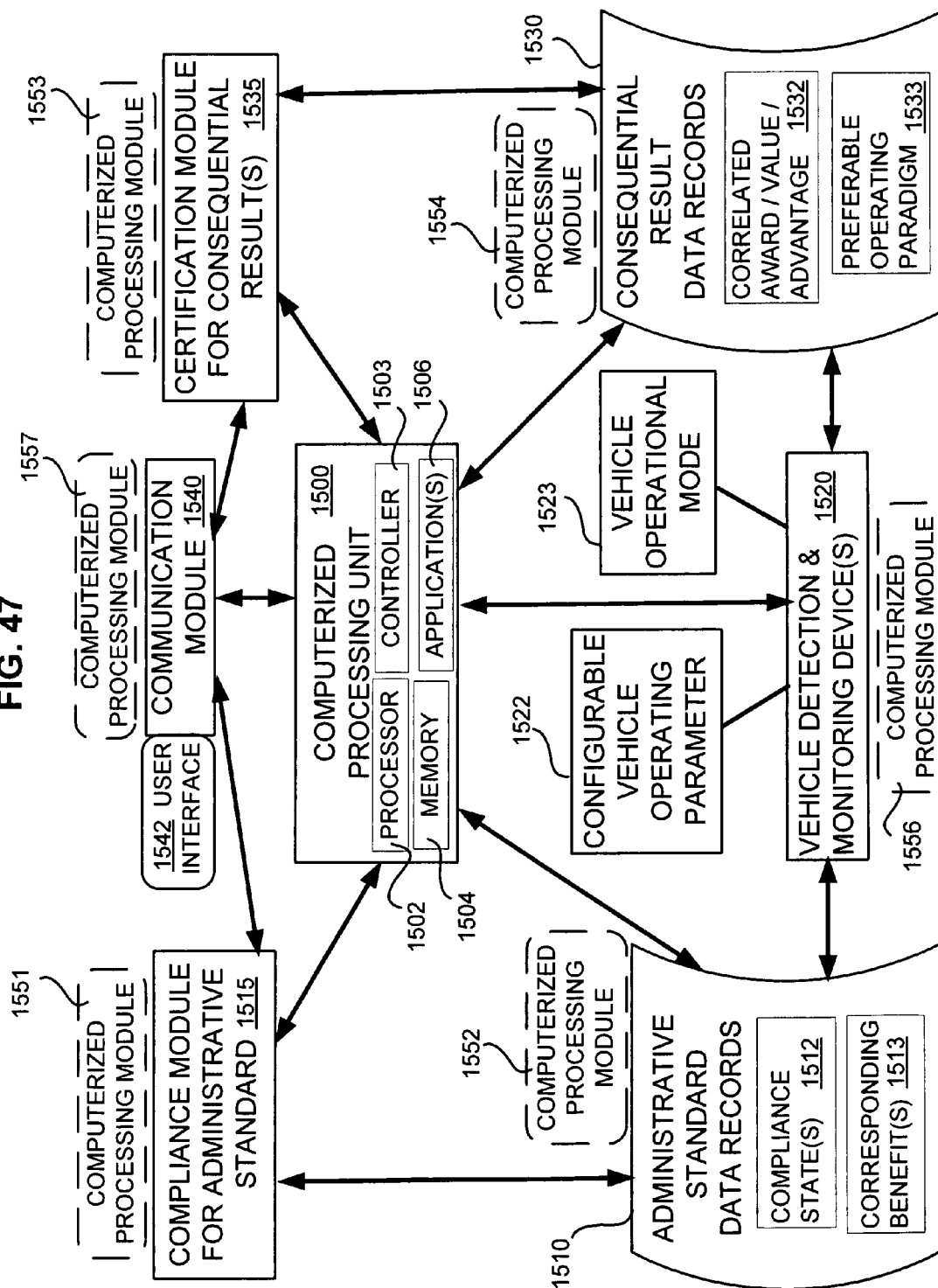


FIG. 48

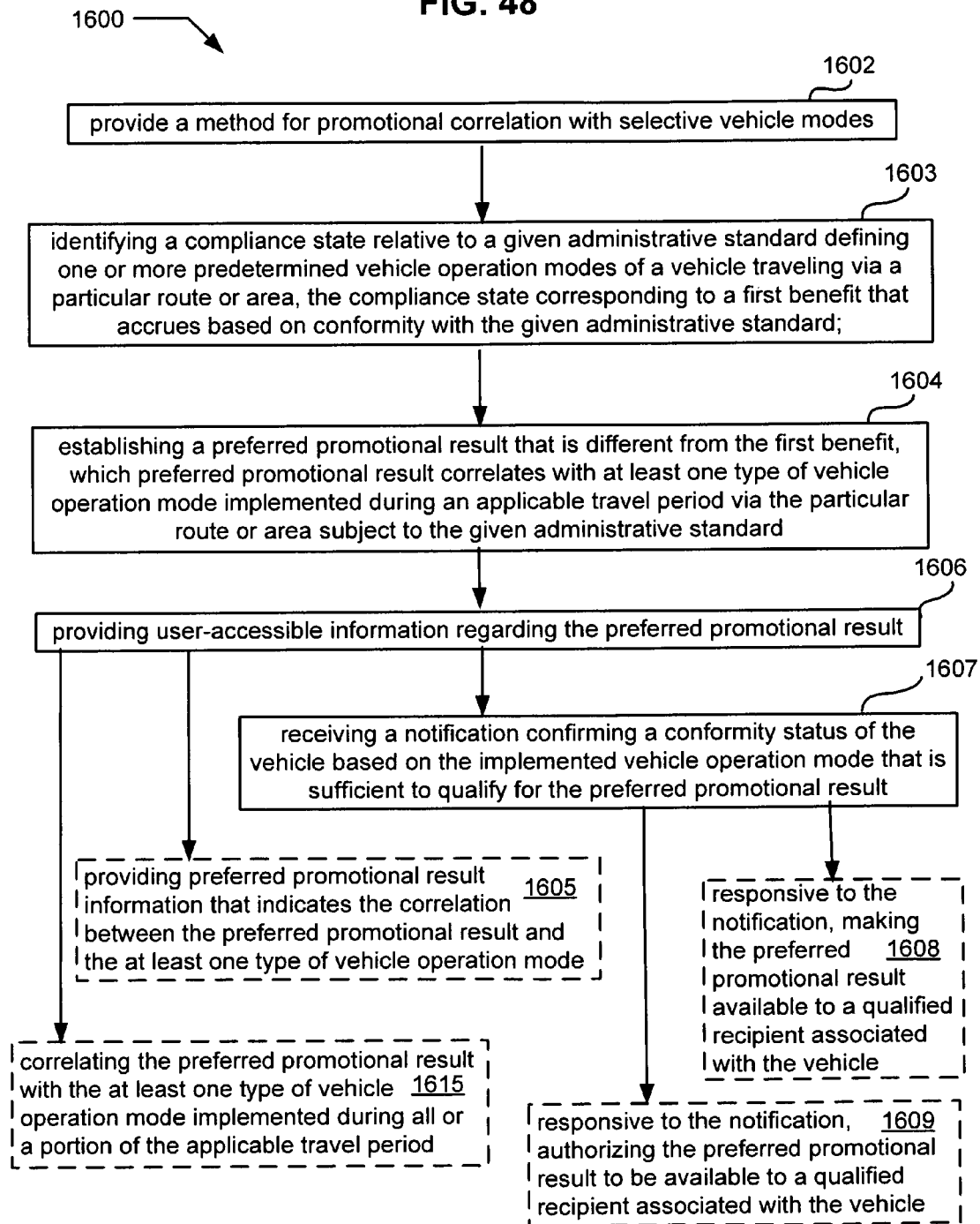


FIG. 49

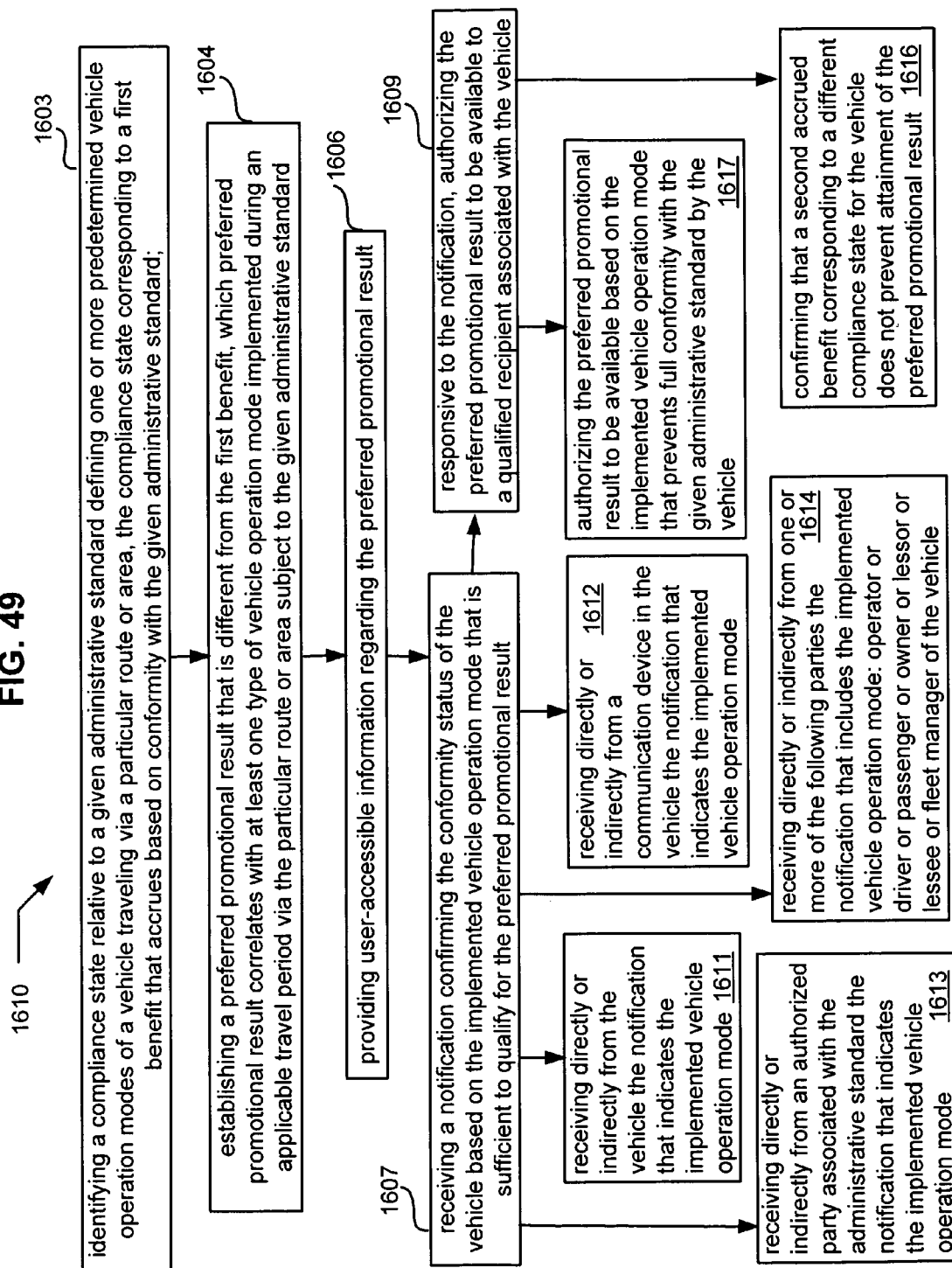


FIG. 50

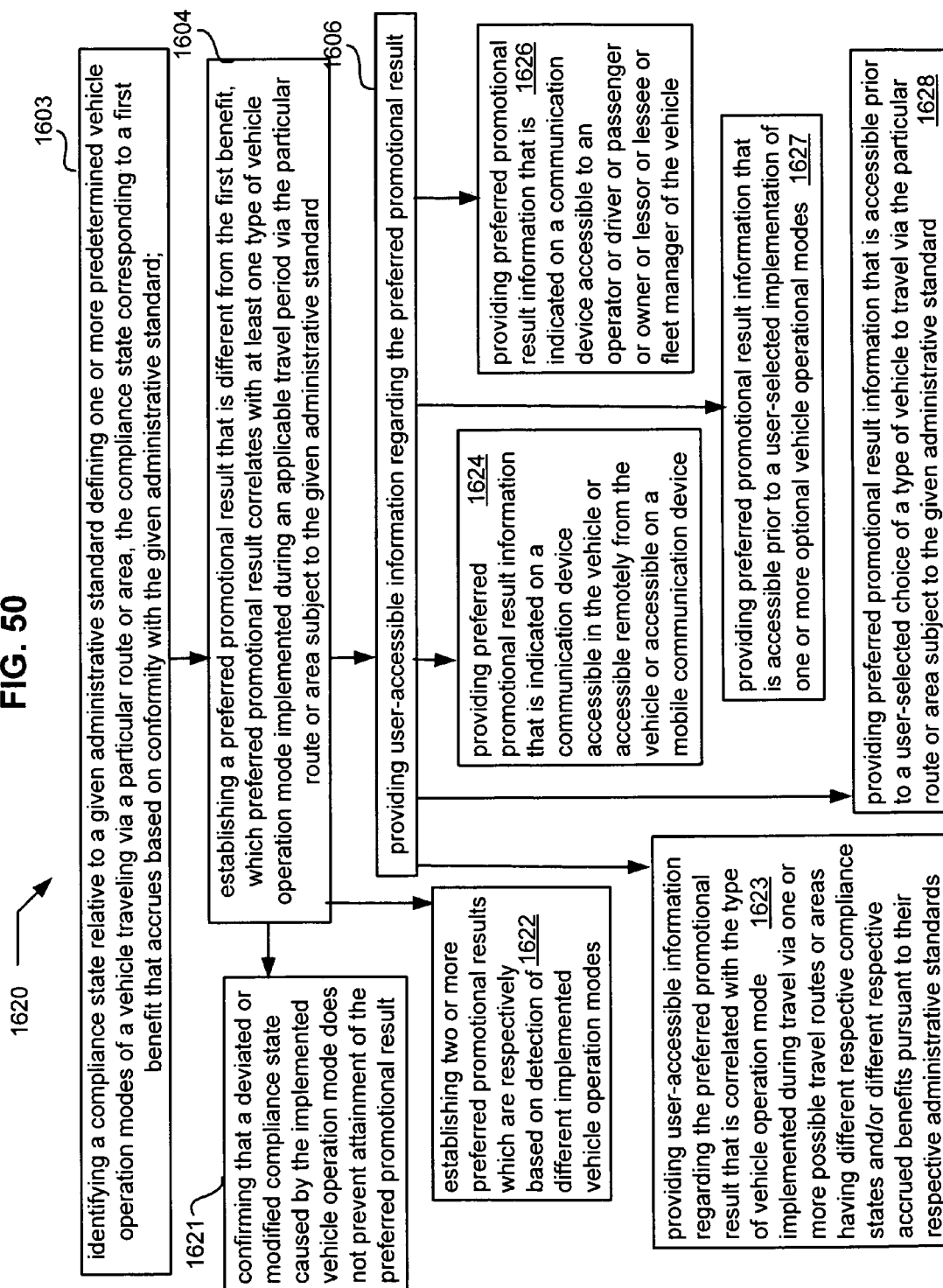


FIG. 51

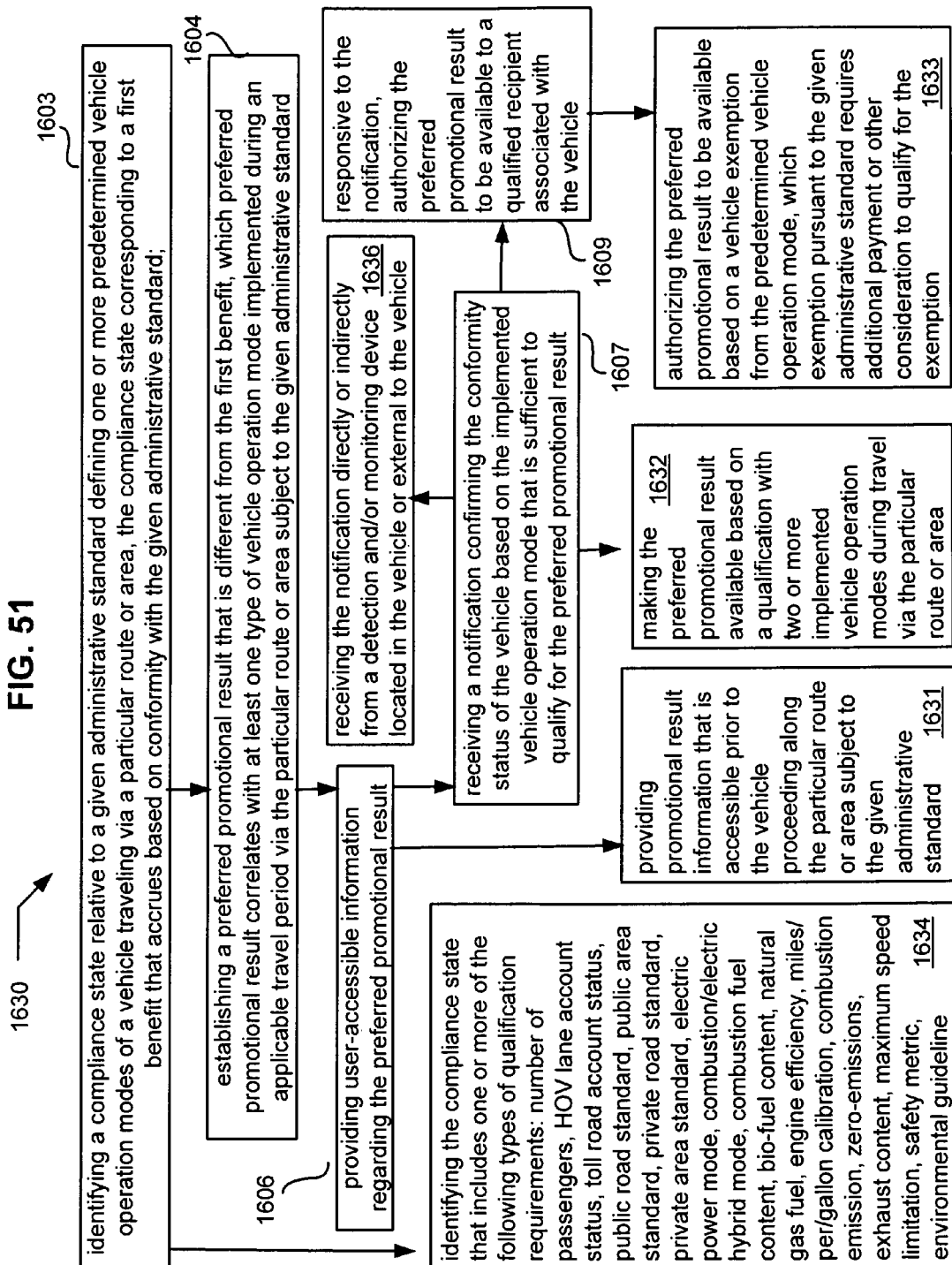


FIG. 52

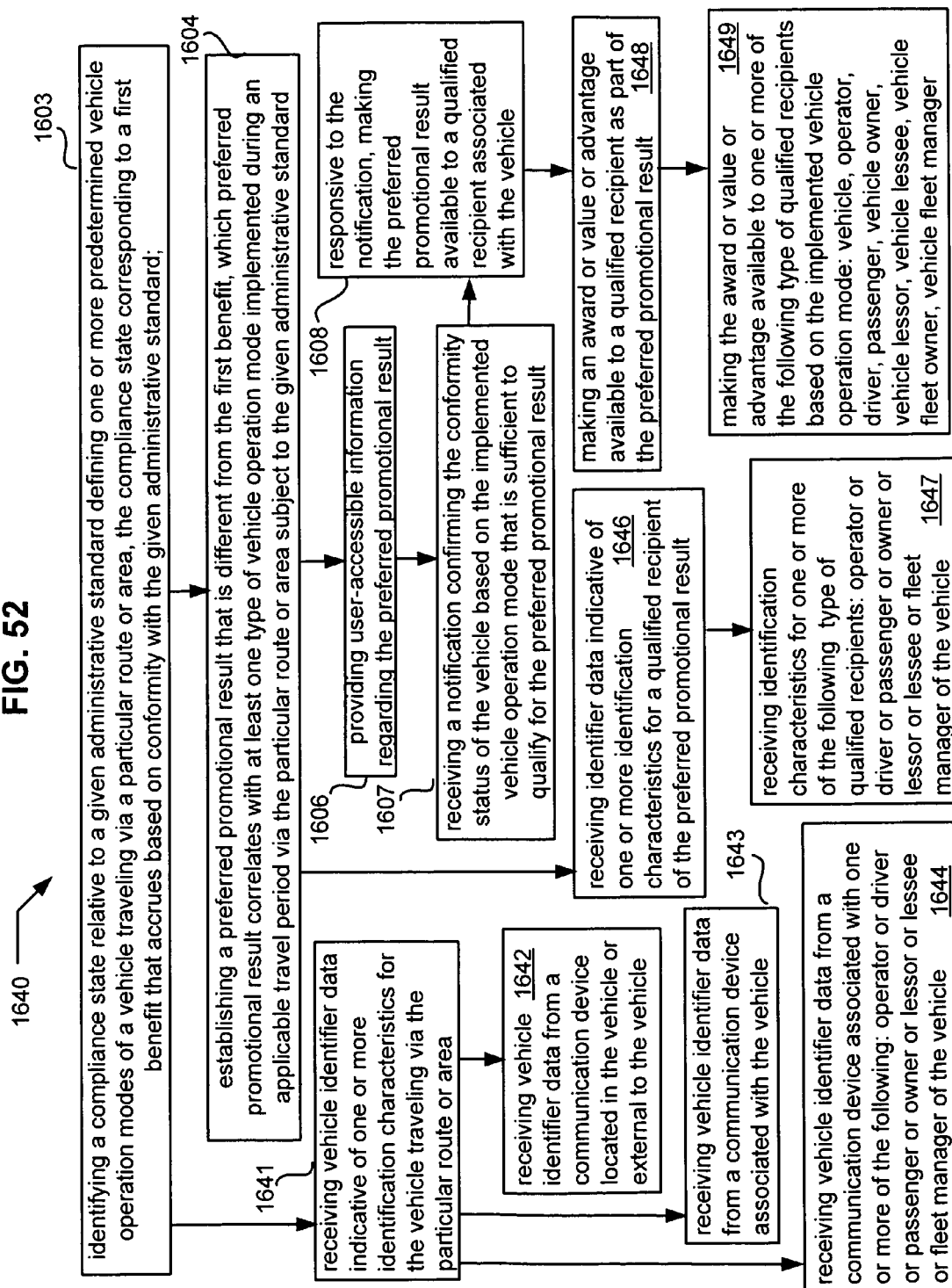


FIG. 53

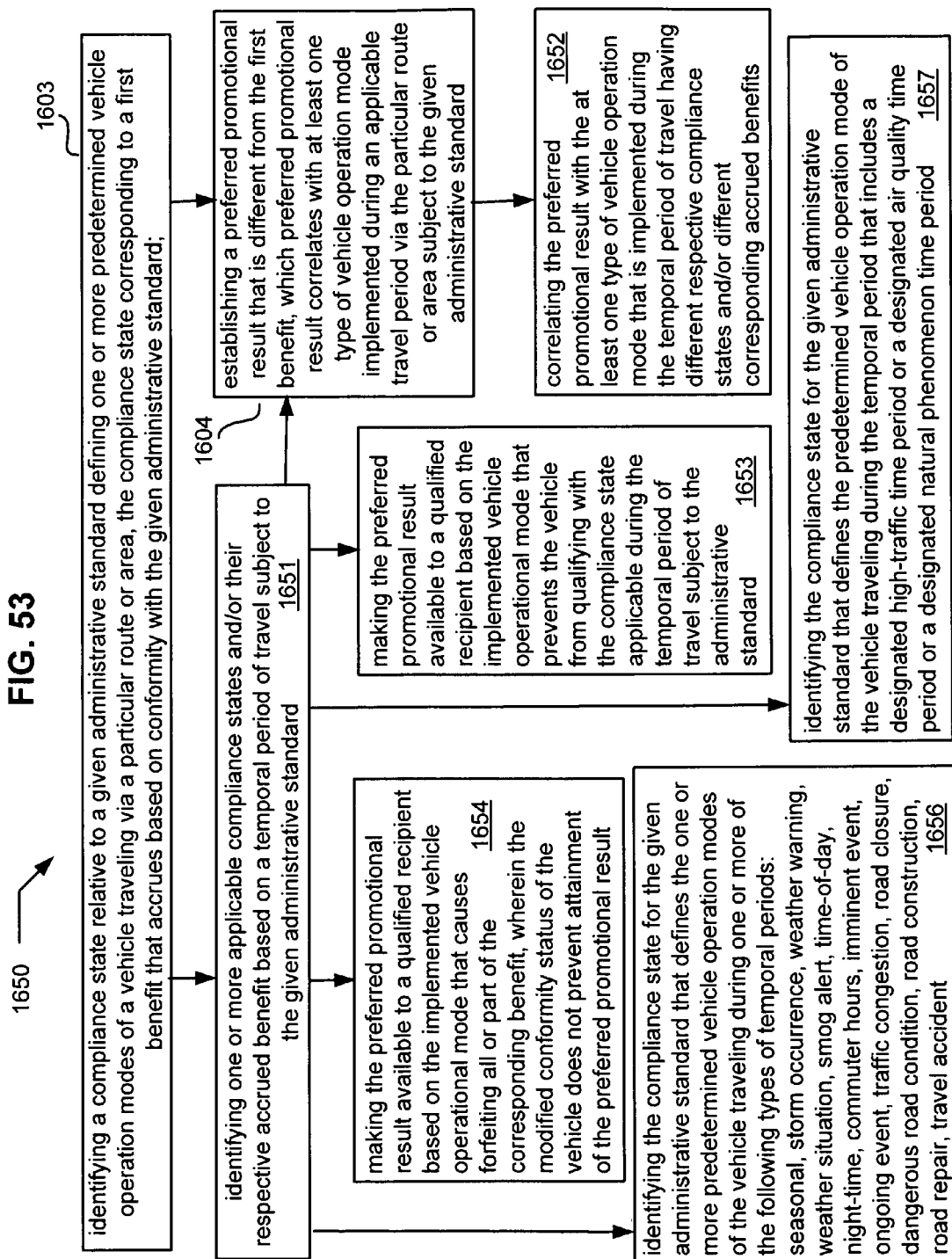


FIG. 54

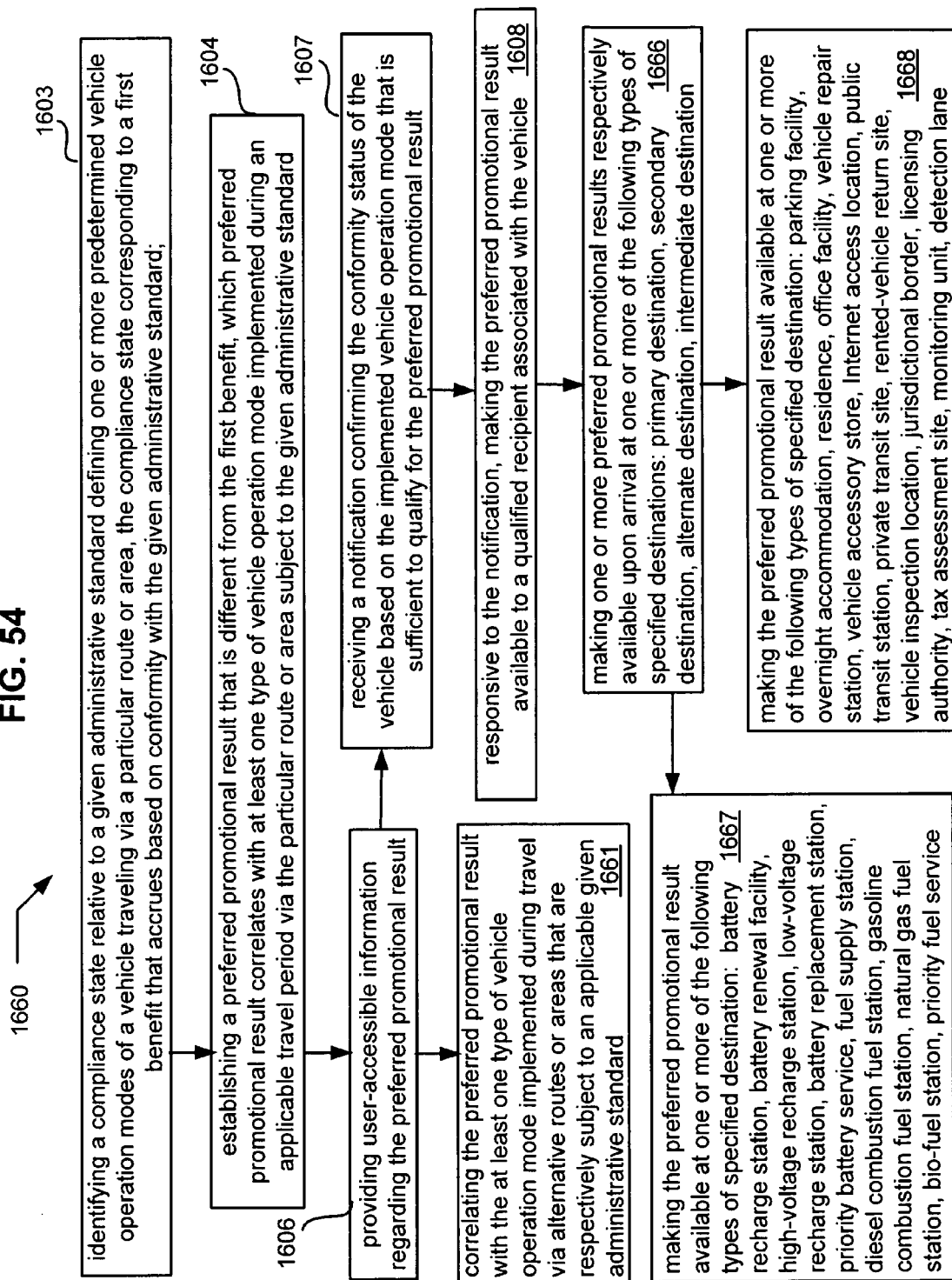


FIG. 55

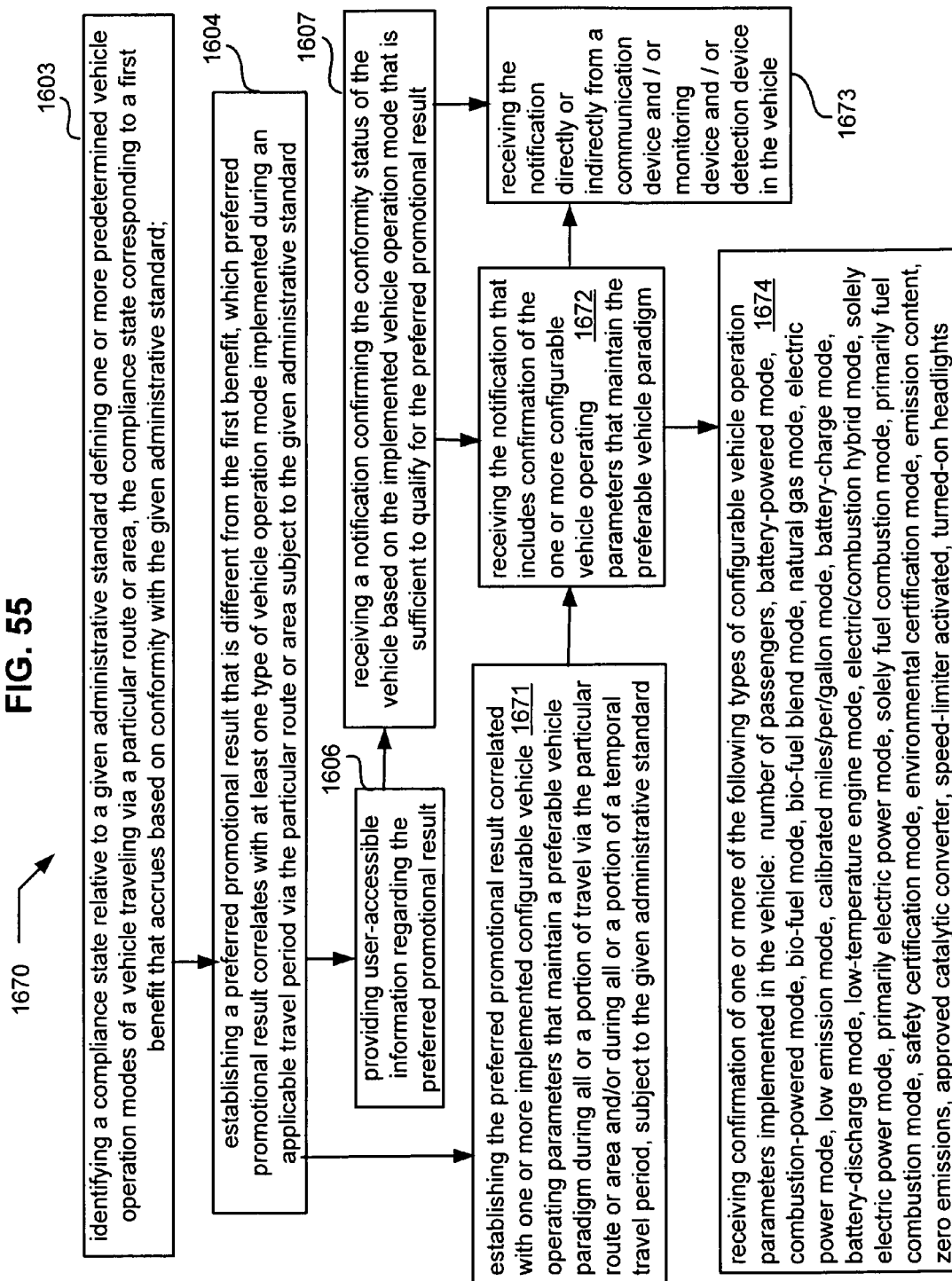


FIG. 56

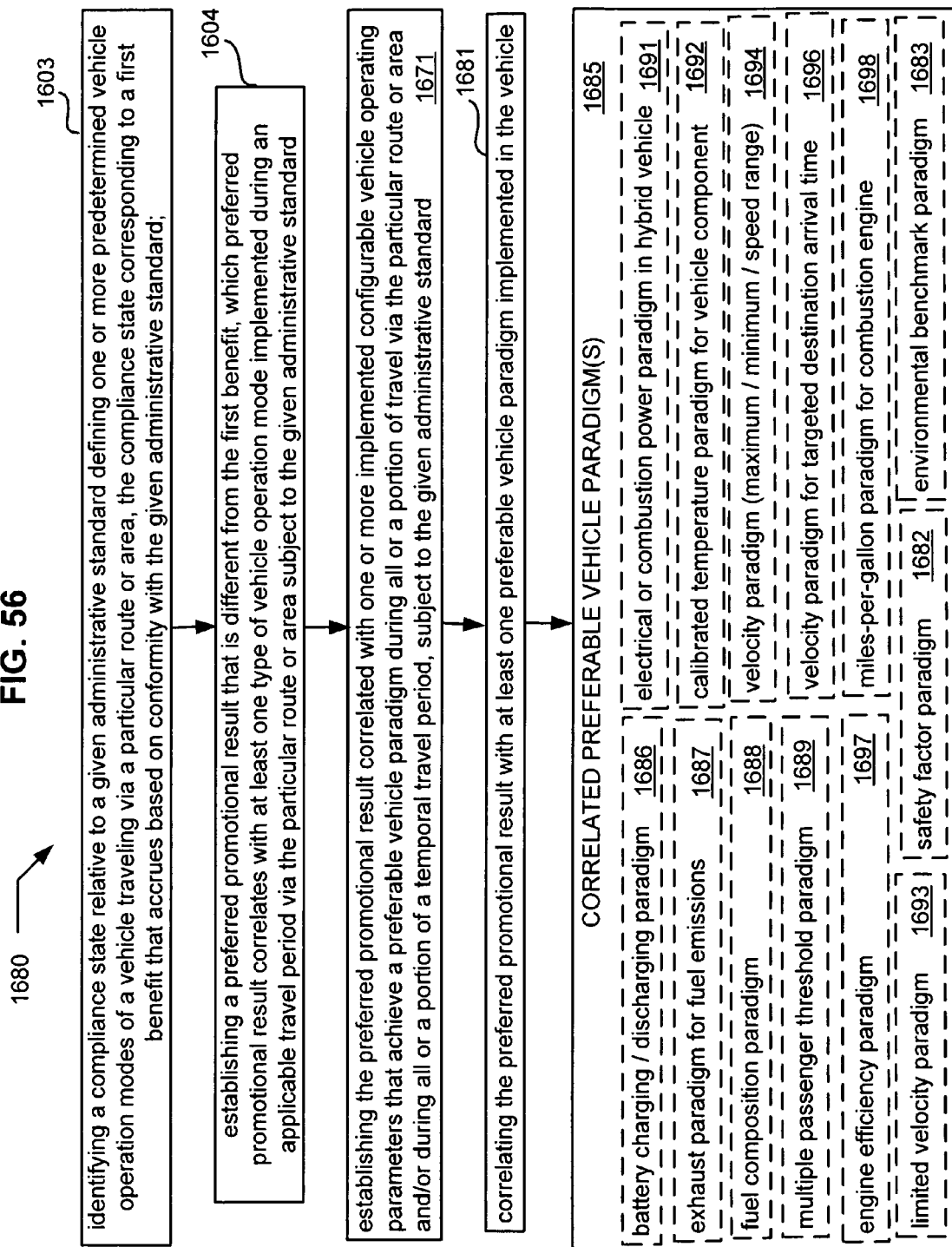


FIG. 57

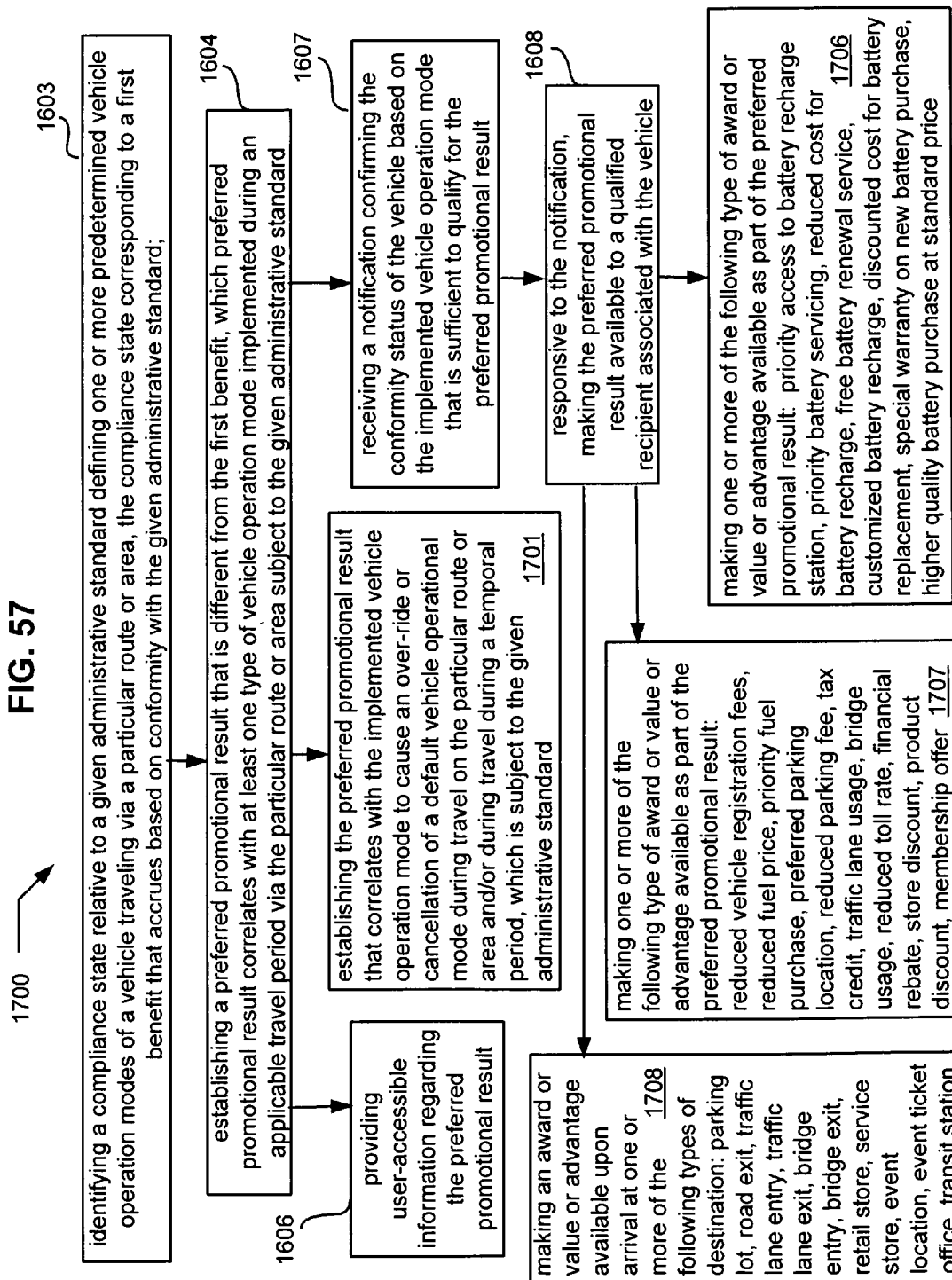
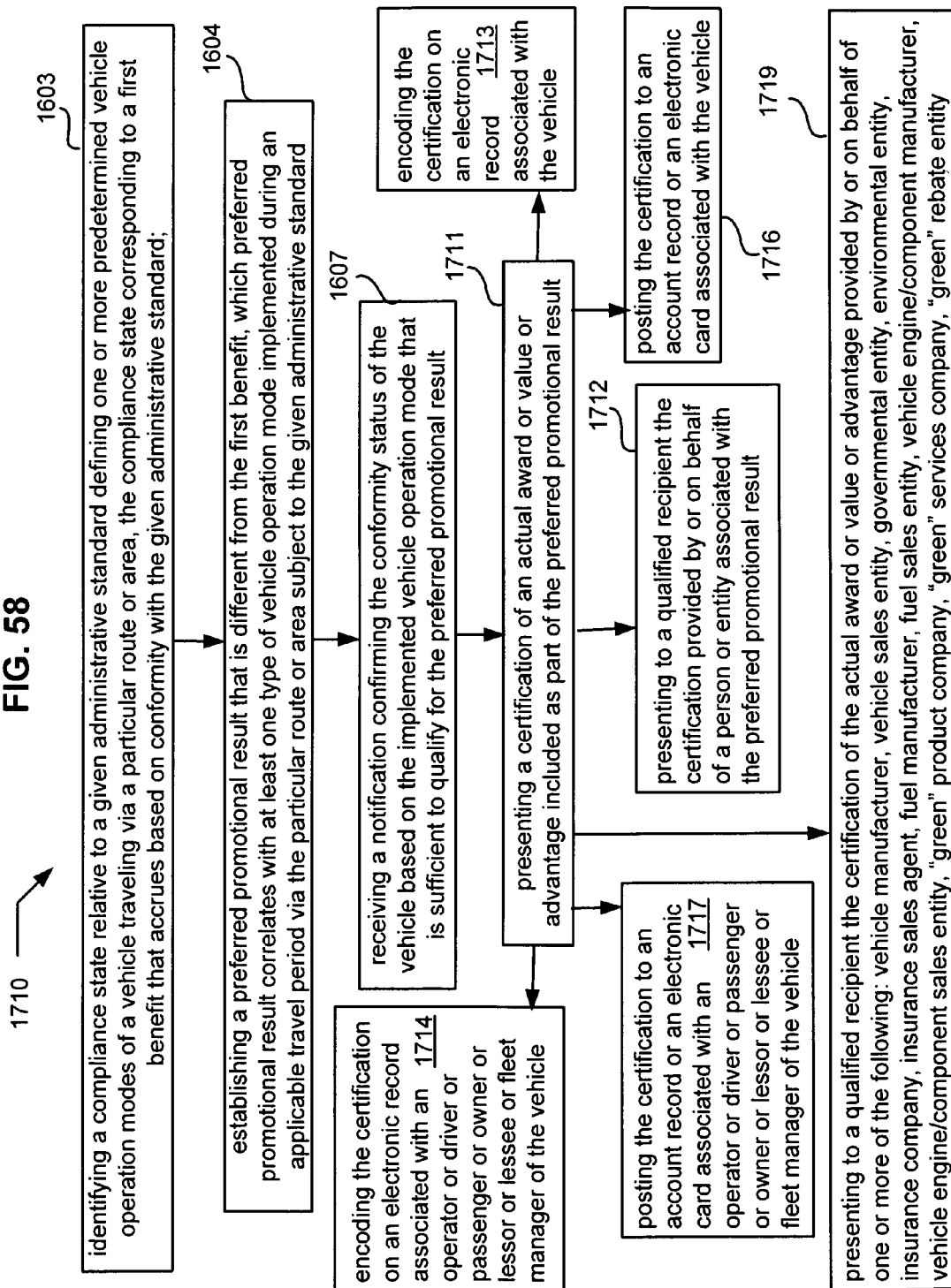


FIG. 58



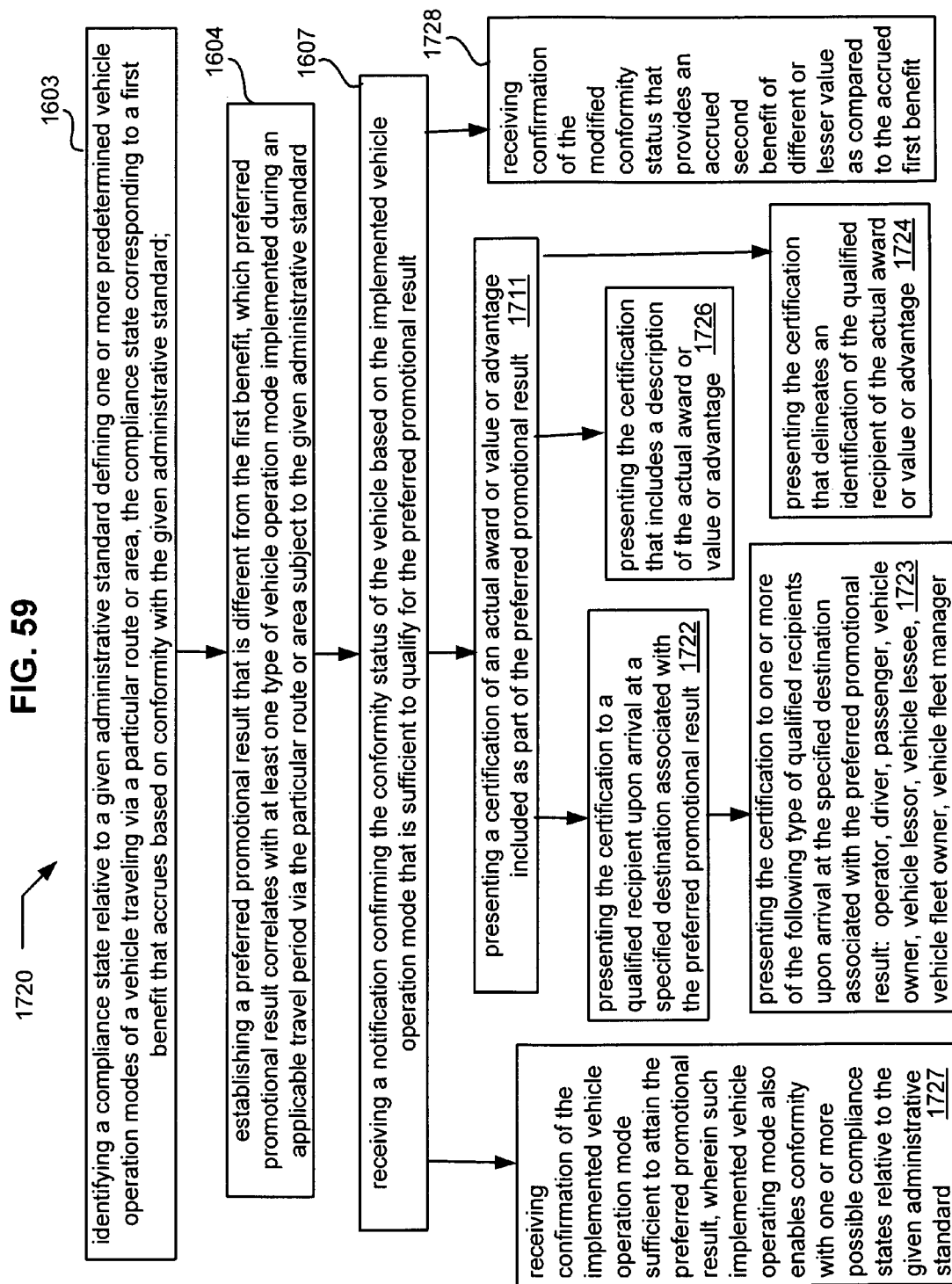


FIG. 60

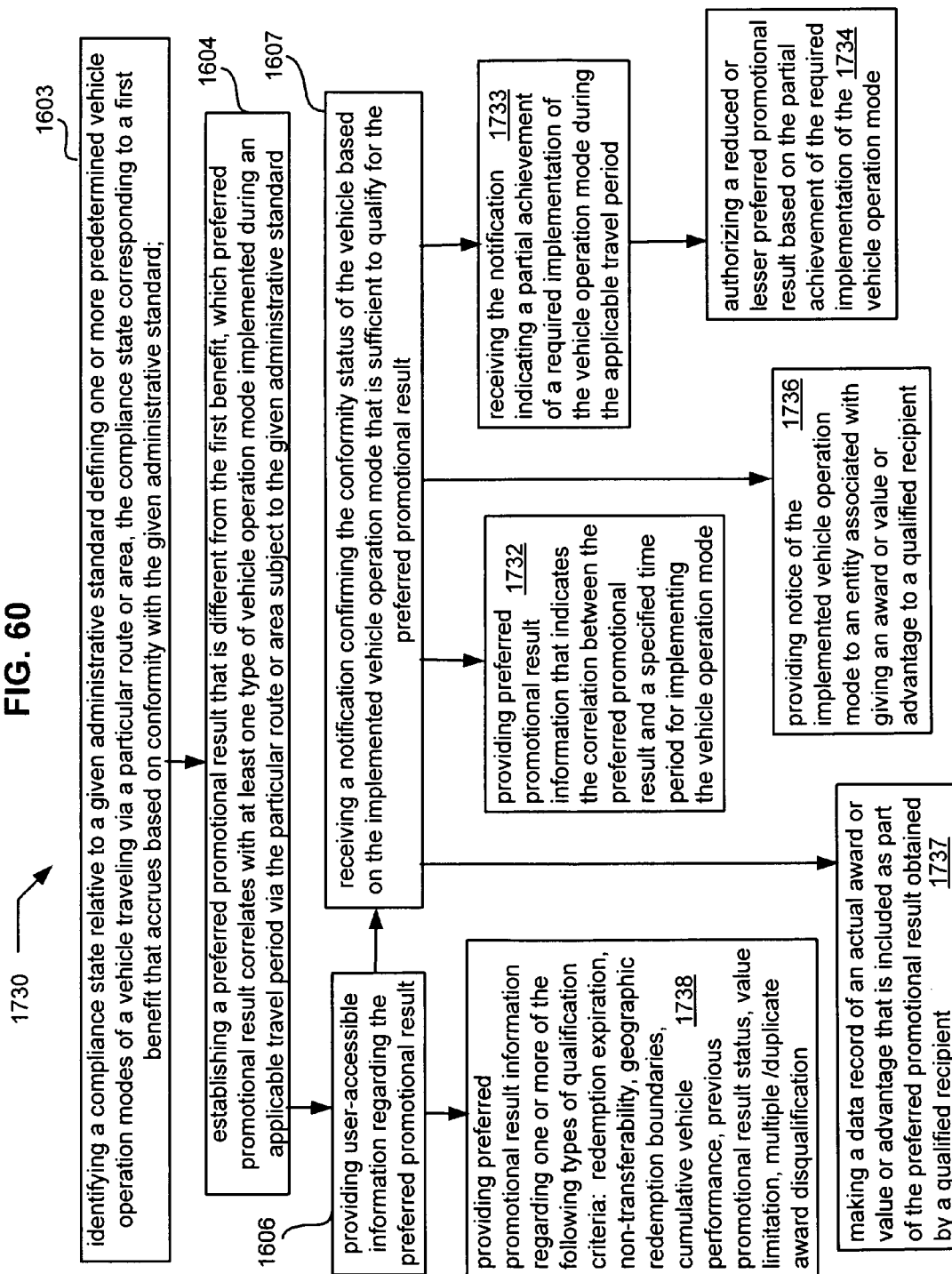
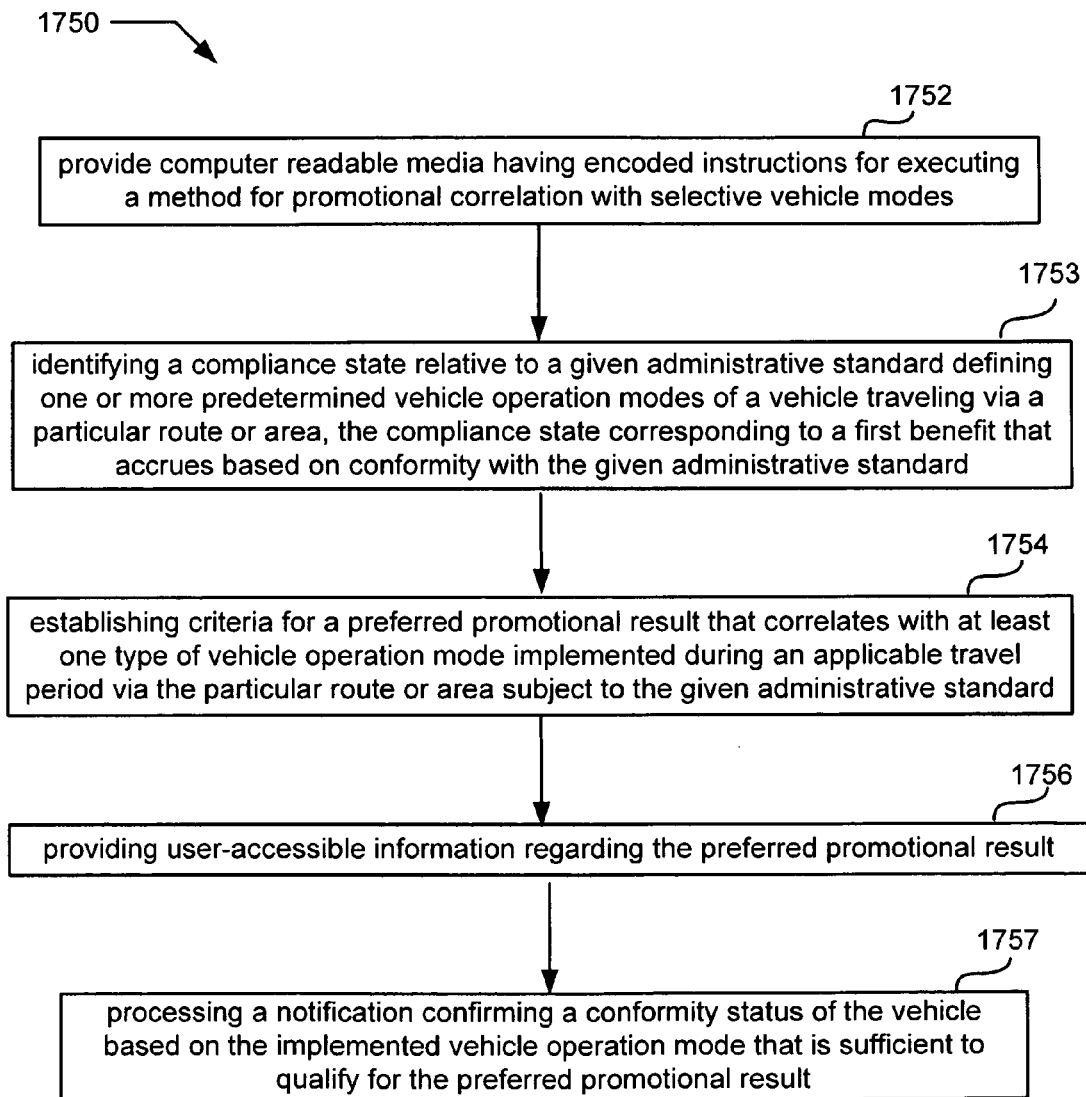


FIG. 61



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**PROMOTIONAL CORRELATION WITH
SELECTIVE VEHICLE MODES****CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED
APPLICATIONS**

The present application is related to and claims the benefit of the earliest available effective filing date(s) from the following listed application(s) (the "Related Applications") (e.g., claims earliest available priority dates for other than provisional patent applications or claims benefits under 35 USC § 119(e) for provisional patent applications, for any and all parent, grandparent, great-grandparent, etc. applications of the Related Application(s)). All subject matter of the Related Applications and of any and all parent, grandparent, great-grandparent, etc. applications of the Related Applications is incorporated herein by reference to the extent such subject matter is not inconsistent herewith.

RELATED APPLICATIONS

For purposes of the USPTO extra-statutory requirements, the present application constitutes a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 12/587,703 entitled PROMOTIONAL CORRELATION WITH SELECTIVE VEHICLE MODES, naming Roderick A. Hyde, Muriel Y. Ishikawa, Jordin T. Kare, Thomas J. Nugent, Jr., Clarence T. Tegreene, Charles Whitmer, Lowell L. Wood, Jr., Victoria Y. H. Wood as inventors, filed 9 Oct. 2009, which is currently co-pending, or is an application of which a currently co-pending application is entitled to the benefit of the filing date.

For purposes of the USPTO extra-statutory requirements, the present application constitutes a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 12/587,237 entitled REMOTE PROCESSING OF SELECTED VEHICLE OPERATING PARAMETERS, naming Roderick A. Hyde, Muriel Y. Ishikawa, Jordin T. Kare, Thomas J. Nugent, Jr., Clarence T. Tegreene, Charles Whitmer, Lowell L. Wood, Jr., Victoria Y. H. Wood as inventors, filed 2 Oct. 2009, which is currently co-pending, or is an application of which a currently co-pending application is entitled to the benefit of the filing date.

For purposes of the USPTO extra-statutory requirements, the present application constitutes a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 12/587,129 entitled VEHICLE SYSTEM FOR VARIED COMPLIANCE BENEFITS, naming Roderick A. Hyde, Muriel Y. Ishikawa, Jordin T. Kare, Thomas J. Nugent, Jr., Clarence T. Tegreene, Charles Whitmer, Lowell L. Wood, Jr., Victoria Y. H. Wood as inventors, filed 30 Sep. 2009, which is currently co-pending, or is an application of which a currently co-pending application is entitled to the benefit of the filing date.

For purposes of the USPTO extra-statutory requirements, the present application constitutes a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 12/587,017 entitled SELECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF AN OPTIONAL VEHICLE MODE, naming Roderick A. Hyde, Muriel Y. Ishikawa, Jordin T. Kare, Thomas J. Nugent, Jr., Clarence T. Tegreene, Charles Whitmer, Lowell L. Wood, Jr., Victoria Y. H. Wood as inventors, filed 29 Sep. 2009, which is currently co-pending, or is an application of which a currently co-pending application is entitled to the benefit of the filing date.

For purposes of the USPTO extra-statutory requirements, the present application constitutes a continuation-in-

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part of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 12/462,207 entitled SELECTIVE CONTROL OF AN OPTIONAL VEHICLE MODE, naming Roderick A. Hyde, Muriel Y. Ishikawa, Jordin T. Kare, Thomas J. Nugent, Jr., Clarence T. Tegreene, Charles Whitmer, Lowell L. Wood, Jr., Victoria Y. H. Wood as inventors, filed 29 Jul. 2009, which is currently co-pending, or is an application of which a currently co-pending application is entitled to the benefit of the filing date.

The United States Patent Office (USPTO) has published a notice to the effect that the USPTO's computer programs require that patent applicants reference both a serial number and indicate whether an application is a continuation or continuation-in-part. Stephen G. Kunin, Benefit of Prior-Filed Application, USPTO Official Gazette Mar. 18, 2003, available at <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/com/sol/og/2003/week11/patbene.htm>. The present Applicant Entity (hereinafter "Applicant") has provided above a specific reference to the application(s) from which priority is being claimed as recited by statute. Applicant understands that the statute is unambiguous in its specific reference language and does not require either a serial number or any characterization, such as "continuation" or "continuation-in-part," for claiming priority to U.S. patent applications. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Applicant understands that the USPTO's computer programs have certain data entry requirements, and hence Applicant is designating the present application as a continuation-in-part of its parent applications as set forth above, but expressly points out that such designations are not to be construed in any way as any type of commentary and/or admission as to whether or not the present application contains any new matter in addition to the matter of its parent application(s).

BACKGROUND

The present application relates to vehicle monitoring and control devices and related methods, systems, components, computerized apparatus, software program products, and communication techniques.

SUMMARY

In one aspect, an exemplary method embodiment for promotional correlation with selective vehicle modes may include identifying a compliance state relative to a given administrative standard defining one or more predetermined vehicle operation modes of a vehicle traveling via a particular route or area, the compliance state corresponding to a first benefit that accrues based on conformity with the given administrative standard; establishing a preferred promotional result that is different from the first benefit, which preferred promotional result correlates with at least one type of vehicle operation mode implemented during an applicable travel period via the particular route or area subject to the given administrative standard; providing user-accessible information regarding the preferred promotional result; and receiving a notification confirming a conformity status of the vehicle based on the implemented vehicle operation mode that is sufficient to qualify for the preferred promotional result.

In one or more various aspects, related systems include but are not limited to circuitry and/or programming for effecting the herein-referenced method aspects; the circuitry and/or programming can be virtually any combination of hardware, software, and/or firmware configured to effect the herein-referenced method aspects depending upon the design choices of the system designer.

In another aspect, an exemplary system embodiment may include but is not limited to computerized components for remote processing of selected vehicle operating parameters, which system has the capability to implement the various process features disclosed herein. Various exemplary system aspects are described in the claims, drawings, and text forming a part of the present disclosure.

In an additional aspect, an exemplary system for promotional correlation with selective vehicle modes may include a vehicle identifier record for an identified vehicle traveling via a particular route or area that is subject to a given administrative standard that includes a first data record indicative of one or more compliance states corresponding to respective benefits available to a qualified recipient; a second data record listing one or more preferred promotional results that correlate with one or more optional vehicle operational modes; a computerized processing unit operably coupled to the second data record and having a link to one or more monitoring or detection devices on the vehicle, wherein the computerized processing unit is configured to determine qualification for the one or more preferred promotional results based on a selected vehicle operational mode detected during an applicable travel period by the one or more vehicle monitoring or detection devices.

In a further aspect, a computer program product embodiment may include computer-readable media having encoded instructions for executing an exemplary method for promotional correlation with selective vehicle modes, including identifying a compliance state relative to a given administrative standard defining one or more predetermined vehicle operation modes of a vehicle traveling via a particular route or area, the compliance state corresponding to a first benefit that accrues based on conformity with the given administrative standard; establishing criteria for a preferred promotional result that correlates with at least one type of vehicle operation mode implemented during an applicable travel period via the particular route or area subject to the given administrative standard; providing user-accessible information regarding the preferred promotional result; and processing a notification confirming a conformity status of the vehicle based on the implemented vehicle operation mode that is sufficient to qualify for the preferred promotional result.

In addition to the foregoing, various other method and/or system and/or program product aspects are set forth and described in the teachings such as text (e.g., claims and/or detailed description) and/or drawings of the present disclosure.

The foregoing summary is illustrative only and is not intended to be in any way limiting. In addition to the illustrative aspects, embodiments, and features described above, further aspects, embodiments, and features will become apparent by reference to the drawings and the following detailed description.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

FIG. 1 is a schematic block diagram illustrating an exemplary embodiment for a selective vehicle control system.

FIG. 2 is a schematic block diagram depicting exemplary vehicle operating parameters.

FIG. 3 is a schematic block diagram illustrating exemplary data processing aspects related to optional vehicle operational modes.

FIG. 4 is a schematic representation of exemplary communication techniques involving optional vehicle operational modes.

FIG. 5 is a tabular representation showing varied examples of vehicle compliance states.

FIG. 6 is another tabular representation showing additional exemplary vehicle compliance states.

FIGS. 7-8 are further tabular representations showing exemplary vehicle modes associated with varied destinations.

FIG. 9 is a schematic representation of exemplary confirmation techniques for various types of consequential results.

FIG. 10 is a high level flow chart for an exemplary selective vehicle control process.

FIGS. 11-24 are more detailed flow charts illustrating further exemplary process features that may be incorporated in vehicle control embodiments.

FIG. 25 is a diagrammatic flow chart for an exemplary computer program product embodiment for selective control of one or more vehicle operational modes.

FIG. 26 is a schematic block diagram illustrating an exemplary vehicle system for varied compliance benefits.

FIG. 27 is a depiction of an exemplary display of a data table for comparative vehicle modes.

FIG. 28 is a high level flow chart for an exemplary method for managing vehicle operation mode data.

FIGS. 29-45 are more detailed flow charts illustrating additional exemplary process features that may be incorporated in vehicle management system embodiments.

FIG. 46 is a diagrammatic flow chart for an exemplary computer program product embodiment for managing various vehicle operational modes.

FIG. 47 is a schematic block diagram illustrating an exemplary system for managing and processing vehicle operation mode data.

FIG. 48 is a high level flow chart for exemplary method embodiments for promotional correlation with various vehicle modes.

FIGS. 49-60 are more detailed flow charts illustrating additional exemplary process features regarding possible promotional results correlated with one or more vehicle operation modes.

FIG. 61 is a diagrammatic flow chart depicting exemplary computer program product features for promotional correlation with selected vehicle operation modes.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

In the following detailed description, reference is made to the accompanying drawings, which form a part hereof. In the drawings, similar symbols typically identify similar components, unless context dictates otherwise. The illustrative embodiments described in the detailed description, drawings, and claims are not meant to be limiting. Other embodiments may be utilized, and other changes may be made, without departing from the spirit or scope of the subject matter presented here.

Those having skill in the art will recognize that the state of the art has progressed to the point where there is little distinction left between hardware, software, and/or firmware implementations of aspects of systems; the use of hardware, software, and/or firmware is generally (but not always, in that in certain contexts the choice between hardware and software can become significant) a design choice representing cost vs. efficiency tradeoffs. Those having skill in the art will appreciate that there are various vehicles by which processes and/or systems and/or other technologies described herein can be effected (e.g., hardware, software, and/or firmware), and that the preferred vehicle will vary with the context in which the processes and/or systems and/or other technologies are deployed. For example, if an implementer determines that

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speed and accuracy are paramount, the implementer may opt for a mainly hardware and/or firmware vehicle; alternatively, if flexibility is paramount, the implementer may opt for a mainly software implementation; or, yet again alternatively, the implementer may opt for some combination of hardware, software, and/or firmware. Hence, there are several possible vehicles by which the processes and/or devices and/or other technologies described herein may be effected, none of which is inherently superior to the other in that any vehicle to be utilized is a choice dependent upon the context in which the vehicle will be deployed and the specific concerns (e.g., speed, flexibility, or predictability) of the implementer, any of which may vary. Those skilled in the art will recognize that optical aspects of implementations will typically employ optically-oriented hardware, software, and/or firmware.

In some implementations described herein, logic and similar implementations may include software or other control structures. Electronic circuitry, for example, may have one or more paths of electrical current constructed and arranged to implement various functions as described herein. In some implementations, one or more media may be configured to bear a device-detectable implementation when such media hold or transmit device detectable instructions operable to perform as described herein. In some variants, for example, implementations may include an update or modification of existing software or firmware, or of gate arrays or programmable hardware, such as by performing a reception of or a transmission of one or more instructions in relation to one or more operations described herein. Alternatively or additionally, in some variants, an implementation may include special-purpose hardware, software, firmware components, and/or general-purpose components executing or otherwise invoking special-purpose components. Specifications or other implementations may be transmitted by one or more instances of tangible transmission media as described herein, optionally by packet transmission or otherwise by passing through distributed media at various times.

Alternatively or additionally, implementations may include executing a special-purpose instruction sequence or invoking circuitry for enabling, triggering, coordinating, requesting, or otherwise causing one or more occurrences of virtually any functional operations described herein. In some variants, operational or other logical descriptions herein may be expressed as source code and compiled or otherwise invoked as an executable instruction sequence. In some contexts, for example, implementations may be provided, in whole or in part, by source code, such as C++, or other code sequences.

In other implementations, source or other code implementation, using commercially available and/or techniques in the art, may be compiled/implemented/translated/converted into a high-level descriptor language (e.g., initially implementing described technologies in C or C++ programming language and thereafter converting the programming language implementation into a logic-synthesizable language implementation, a hardware description language implementation, a hardware design simulation implementation, and/or other such similar mode(s) of expression). For example, some or all of a logical expression (e.g., computer programming language implementation) may be manifested as a Verilog-type hardware description (e.g., via Hardware Description Language (HDL) and/or Very High Speed Integrated Circuit Hardware Descriptor Language (VHDL)) or other circuitry model which may then be used to create a physical implementation having hardware (e.g., an Application Specific Integrated Circuit). Those skilled in the art will recognize how to obtain, configure, and optimize suitable transmission

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or computational elements, material supplies, actuators, or other structures in light of these teachings.

Those skilled in the art will recognize that it is common within the art to implement devices and/or processes and/or systems, and thereafter use engineering and/or other practices to integrate such implemented devices and/or processes and/or systems into more comprehensive devices and/or processes and/or systems. That is, at least a portion of the devices and/or processes and/or systems described herein can be integrated into other devices and/or processes and/or systems via a reasonable amount of experimentation. Those having skill in the art will recognize that examples of such other devices and/or processes and/or systems might include—as appropriate to context and application—all or part of devices and/or processes and/or systems of (a) an air conveyance (e.g., an airplane, rocket, helicopter, etc.), (b) a ground conveyance (e.g., a car, truck, locomotive, tank, armored personnel carrier, etc.), (c) a building (e.g., a home, warehouse, office, etc.), (d) an appliance (e.g., a refrigerator, a washing machine, a dryer, etc.), (e) a communications system (e.g., a networked system, a telephone system, a Voice over IP system, etc.), (f) a business entity (e.g., an Internet Service Provider (ISP) entity such as Comcast Cable, Qwest, Southwestern Bell, etc.), or (g) a wired/wireless services entity (e.g., Sprint, Cingular, Nextel, etc.), etc.

In certain cases, use of a system or method may occur in a territory even if components are located outside the territory. For example, in a distributed computing context, use of a distributed computing system may occur in a territory even though parts of the system may be located outside of the territory (e.g., relay, server, processor, signal-bearing medium, transmitting computer, receiving computer, etc. located outside the territory).

A sale of a system or method may likewise occur in a territory even if components of the system or method are located and/or used outside the territory. Further, implementation of at least part of a system for performing a method in one territory does not preclude use of the system in another territory.

As used herein, the term “vehicle” encompasses devices for conveying persons or objects, including without limitation automobiles, trucks, motorcycles, buses, trains, and other land conveyances, boats, ferries, ships, and other watergoing vessels, and aircraft.

FIG. 1 is a schematic block diagram illustrating an exemplary embodiment 50 for a selective vehicle control system regarding vehicle 55. A vehicle communication unit 52 having user-selection interface 54 may in some instances be remotely accessed by a mobile communication unit 56 having user-selection interface 58. The vehicle communication unit 54 may also be operably connected via transponder 60 and via field transceiver 62 with a central data center 65 to facilitate determination of a conformity status of the vehicle 50 with respect to an applicable vehicle administrative standard. The central data center 65 may be linked to an administrative standards compliance unit 70 that is configured to include processor 72, controller 74, and application program 76 in order to make such a conformity status determination for vehicle 55 as well as for other vehicles. A periodically updated record of accounts 78 regarding the conformity status may be maintained by the administrative standards compliance unit 70.

It will be understood that a record of accounts 78 may relate to various persons or entities associated with vehicle 50. In some embodiments the vehicle communication unit 52 may be linked to an on-board card reader/scanner 90 that is capable of transferring relevant account data to and/or receive-

ing data from a vehicle identification (ID) card **92**, vehicle owner ID card **94**, driver/operator ID card **94**, passenger ID card **98**, and/or fleet ID card **99**. In certain embodiments the card reader/scanner **90** may also be able to transfer data to and/or receive data from a credit card **91** for non-cash transactions regarding a compliance state relative to the applicable administrative standard as well as for a non-cash transaction regarding a preferred consequential result correlated with one or more optional vehicle operational modes.

A correlation display unit **100** may be linked to the vehicle communication unit **52** to provide pertinent informational data for various compliance states relative to the administrative standard that is applicable to vehicle **55**. For example, a compliance exemption category may have a related cost/penalty **108**, a compliance state #AA may have a related first benefit **102**; a different compliance state #BB may have a related second benefit **104**; and another different compliance state #CC may have a related third benefit **104**. The correlation display unit **100** may also provide data indicative of varied administrative time periods and/or varied administrative locales **110** associated with the various compliance states.

The correlation display unit **100** may be linked to the vehicle communication unit **52** to provide pertinent informational data indicative of various vehicle operational modes and their correlated consequential results. This enables a user-selected implementation of chosen vehicle operational mode which in some instances may modify a vehicle conformity status of a given administrative standard. For example, a selective vehicle mode option #XX may qualify for a first result **112**; a different selective vehicle mode option #YY may qualify for a second result **114**; and another different selective vehicle mode option #ZZ may qualify for a third result. As further examples, a choice of alternative travel routes for vehicle **55** may result in different respective consequences **120**; a choice of alternate destinations for vehicle **55** may result in different respective consequences **122**; and a choice of a vehicle paradigm operation may result in a particular type of consequence **124**.

FIG. 2 is a schematic block diagram depicting exemplary vehicle operating parameters regarding vehicle **130**. In some embodiments the vehicle **130** may include an engine drive system **160** that derives power from a combustion motor **162** and/or from an electric motor **172**. A vehicle communication unit **140** may include a data/status display **142** for indicating various pertinent data regarding one or more configurable vehicle operating parameters **146** as well as pertinent data regarding available consequential results **148** respectively associated with the configurable vehicle operating parameters **146**. The vehicle communication unit **140** having user interface **141** may be accessed by a vehicle operator **144** (e.g., in some instances by another vehicle occupant) to monitor such configurable vehicle operating parameters **146**.

For example, vehicle operating parameters involving the combustion motor **162** may include various data aspects related to exhaust emissions **168**, wherein monitored and/or processed output data obtained by emission sensor **169** may be transmitted to communication unit **140**. As another example, vehicle operating parameters involving combustion fuels may include various data aspects related to gasoline **164** and/or bio-fuel **166**, wherein monitored and/or processed output data obtained by fuel content analyzer **166** as well as obtained by fuel gauge **167** may be transmitted to communication unit **140**.

As additional examples, vehicle operating parameters involving the electric motor **172** may include various data aspects related to a power battery **174**, wherein monitored

and/or processed output data obtained by battery discharge gauge **176** may be transmitted to communication unit **140**. As a further example, monitored and/or processed output data regarding general vehicle operating parameters involving the engine drive system **160** may include engine efficiency calibration data (e.g., miles-per-gallon rating) **170** transmitted to communication unit **140**. As another example, engine operating parameters involving heat monitoring of various vehicle components may be obtained by temperature sensor **178** for transmission to communication unit **140**.

More exemplary vehicle operating parameters may be obtained by a passenger monitoring device **180** for transmitting seat-belt usage data, passenger ID data, and occupant counting data to communication unit **140**. Further exemplary vehicle operating parameters may involve vehicle data that includes monitored safety factors **175** such as identification of air bags deployed, safety inspection status, prohibited driver activity (e.g., alcohol usage, cell phone usage, text messaging, unlicensed driver, expired driver license, etc.), expired car registration, tire tread wear, tire pressure, engine fluid data (e.g., brake cylinder, automatic transmission, oil, coolant), wherein such vehicle data is transmitted to communication unit **140**.

All such output data regarding the vehicle operating parameters that is stored or maintained by communication unit **140** may be accessible on the data/status display monitor **142** for review and/or consideration by the user who selectively implements one or more chosen vehicle operation modes **154**. Such selective implementation may be actuated by circuits and/or software included in a computerized controller module **150**. It will be understood that a user-selection of certain vehicle operating parameters in order to achieve a preferable vehicle paradigm may cause a modification of the conformity status of the vehicle with respect to a given administrative standard.

Such a computerized controller module **150** may also include implementation components such as an application program **152**, lever **158**, keyboard **156** or other devices (e.g., button, dial, switch, mouse, pedal, etc.), and may be actuated by various user-initiated control actions (e.g., voice command, tactile touching, gesture, hand manipulation, foot manipulation, etc.). In some instances the implementation components may be actuated from a mobile and/or remote device (e.g., see mobile communication unit **56** in FIG. 1).

FIG. 3 is a schematic block diagram illustrating exemplary data processing aspects related to optional vehicle operation modes for vehicle **200**. An on-board communication unit **205** having a user-selection interface **208** may be operably connected with a data record **215** regarding various compliance states relative to an administrative standard. The communication unit **205** includes a data/status display **210** to indicate one or more available compliance states for a travel route or travel area or temporal period **217**. The data/status display **210** may further indicate one or more optional vehicle modes **216**, and may identify one or more possible consequential results **226** that are respectively correlated with the optional vehicle modes. A compliance module **220** operatively linked to data record **215** and to communication unit **205** may include processing circuits and/or software capable of determining the conformity status as well as the accrued benefit or penalty based on a selection of one or more configurable vehicle operating parameters associated with an optional vehicle operational mode **230**.

Accordingly a person or entity associated with vehicle **200** may obtain an accrued benefit or penalty corresponding to the conformity status of the vehicle **218** relative to the adminis-

trative standard, which conformity status may be modified due to a user-selected implementation of a chosen vehicle operational mode.

Also depicted in FIG. 3 is a data record regarding availability and status of one or more optional vehicle operational modes **225**, which data record is accessible to the communication unit **205** for review by a user. It will be understood that implementation of an optional vehicle mode correlated with a preferred consequential result **228** may qualify an approved recipient to attain an award or value or advantage included as part of the preferred consequential result **240**. Of course, such implementation of the optional vehicle mode may involve one or more of the following aspects: a preferred vehicle operation paradigm **242**, varied travel route consequences **244**, varied destination consequences **246**. It will be further understood that such implementation of the optional vehicle mode may also have an effect on the conformity status of the vehicle **205** relative to the administrative standard **248**.

Those skilled in the art will recognize that at least a portion of the devices and/or processes described herein can be integrated into a data processing system. Those having skill in the art will recognize that a data processing system generally includes one or more of a system unit housing, a video display device, memory such as volatile or non-volatile memory, processors such as microprocessors or digital signal processors, computational entities such as operating systems, drivers, graphical user interfaces, and applications programs, one or more interaction devices (e.g., a touch pad, a touch screen, an antenna, etc.), and/or control systems including feedback loops and control motors (e.g., feedback for sensing position and/or velocity; control motors for moving and/or adjusting components and/or quantities). A data processing system may be implemented utilizing suitable commercially available components, such as those typically found in data computing/communication and/or network computing/communication systems.

FIG. 4 is a schematic representation of exemplary communication techniques involving optional vehicle operational modes for a vehicle **250** traveling along designated paths **249**, **350** toward one or more destinations **354**, **357**, **358**. For example, in some instances a vehicle mode selection that includes traveling toward a primary destination **354** may require a choice between alternative routes **344**, **346**. A different vehicle mode selection that includes travel along other alternative routes **348**, **349** would allow a visit to intermediate destination **358** along the way to primary destination **354**. Yet another vehicle mode selection that includes travel toward a secondary destination **357** may require a choice to proceed along alternative route **347**. Each travel route as well as each destination may involve varied combinations of trip times and travel velocities and traffic conditions, as well as different compliance states associated with an applicable administrative vehicle standard.

Vehicle **250** may include a driver (e.g., operator) **251** and also passenger occupants **252**, **253**, and may further include a communication unit **255** having a user-selection interface **256** available to the driver **251** and/or passenger occupants **252**, **253**. In some implementations the communication unit **255** may be linked to an on-board GPS **260**, and also linked to onboard data records **258**, and in some instances linked to an on-board compliance unit **275**. The on-board compliance unit **275** may include processing circuits and/or software capable of making a determination of a vehicle conformity status with respect to the given administrative standard **292** and its associated compliance states **294** as set forth in externally available data records **290** (or perhaps also available in on-board

data records **258**). Of course other data record locations may be provided to facilitate easy accessibility and appropriate data integrity and security.

In some embodiments a vehicle-mounted transceiver **270** may provide a bi-directional wireless communication link **272** with a remote compliance unit **280** that may include processing circuits and/or software capable of making a similar determination of the vehicle conformity status. It will be understood that wireless communication links **272a** may be maintained between the remote compliance unit **280** and the traveling vehicle-mounted transceiver **270a** during a time period prior to and/or during and/or after the vehicle **250** is subject to the given administrative standard. Of course the communication unit **255** as well as individual passenger communication units may have their own respective transceivers depending on the circumstances, and the depicted embodiments features are provided for illustration only and are not intended to be limiting.

An account record **310** may receive an output from the on-board compliance unit **275** or from the remote compliance unit **280**. Such an account record **310** may include a cumulative listing of accrued benefits and/or penalties based on conformity of one or more vehicles **250** with the compliance states **294** of various administrative vehicle standards. It will be understood that a transmission tower **300** (or a network satellite) may provide the required wireless communication links **302**, **304**, **306**, **308** with on-board compliance unit **275**, remote compliance unit **280**, account record **310**, and communication unit **255** to facilitate accessibility and storage of historical and/or updated and/or real-time informational data related to the operational modes of vehicle **250** during travel.

When a user identifies and/or receives informational data (e.g., via communication unit **255**) regarding availability of a preferred consequential result **325** that is different from an administrative compliance benefit, a decision may be made to selectively implement one or more optional vehicle operation modes **330** in a manner to attain an available preferred consequential result. For example, one or more available (e.g., updated) consequential results associated with a specified alternate destination **360** may be transmitted to communication unit **255** for display and/or review and/or consideration by the user who selectively implements a chosen vehicle operation mode **330**. As a further example, one or more available (e.g., updated) consequential results associated with alternative travel routes **340** may be transmitted to communication unit **255** for display and/or review and/or consideration by the user who selectively implements a chosen vehicle operation mode **330**. As another example, one or more available (e.g., updated) consequential results associated with a preferred vehicle paradigm **334**, as well as monitored status data for the preferred vehicle paradigms **332**, may be transmitted to communication unit **255** for display and/or review and/or consideration by the user who selectively implements a chosen vehicle operation mode **330**.

FIG. 5 is a tabular representation that includes a data table **380** showing examples of varied vehicle compliance states for applicable private and public locales (e.g., areas and travel routes) **385** that are subject to an administrative vehicle standard during predetermined temporal periods **390**. An exemplary temporal period may include a designated weekday commuter time (e.g., 6-9 AM and 4-7 PM), and in some instances may include special daily air quality alerts (e.g., 8 AM to 8 PM).

An exemplary listing of varied vehicle compliance states **395** and their corresponding daily monetary fee **430** during a designated time period is depicted in FIG. 5. For example, an administrative policy that encourages electric powered

vehicles may be enacted pursuant to an administrative standard have a graduated daily fee scale as follows: battery-powered vehicle **432** pays no daily fee; hybrid vehicle operating in “power mode only” **434** pays two dollars; hybrid vehicle operating in “over fifty percent electric mode” **436** pays six dollars; and hybrid vehicle operating in “over fifty percent combustion mode” **438** pays eight dollars.

As a further example, an administrative policy that encourages non-petroleum and/or non-polluting engines may be enacted pursuant to an administrative standard having varied compliance states **395** with a graduated fee scale as follows: vehicle operating in “pure bio-fuel combustion mode” **440** pays four dollars; vehicle using “certified bio-fuel blend only” **442** pays eight dollars; vehicle using “compressed natural gas fuel” **444** pays four dollars; vehicle using “conventional gas/diesel fuel” **446** pays fifteen dollars; vehicle using diesel fuel with “low emission mode ON” **448** pays ten dollars; and vehicle using gasoline fuel with “catalytic converter ON” **449** pays ten dollars.

As another example, an administrative policy encouraging ride sharing may be enacted pursuant to an administrative standard having varied compliance states **395** with a graduated fee scale as follows: vehicle with “driver only—zero passengers” **450** pays an extra nine dollar surcharge; vehicle with “at least one passenger” **452** pays an extra seven dollar surcharge; vehicle with “at least two passengers” pays an extra three dollar surcharge; and vehicle with “at least three passengers” pays no extra surcharge.

In contrast, an administrative policy that is based on a “usage tax” for non-compliant vehicles may be enacted pursuant to an administrative standard with a fixed fee scale, such as a “prepaid all-day exemption ticket” costing twenty dollars.

Various types of exemplary locales may become subject to a vehicle administrative standard. For example, such an administrative standard may be enforced against vehicles traveling on high-speed traffic lanes (e.g., Tri-City freeway’s high speed thru lane **402**, State highway 25-HOV/diamond lanes **416**), entire roadways (e.g., Evergreen parkway **406**, Memorial toll road **404**), strategic routes traversing natural barriers (e.g., Roosevelt tunnel **408**, Pioneer viaduct **410**, Cascade River bridge **412**, Washington lake ferry **414**), nature parks (e.g., Grizzly bear forest state park **418**, Redwood mountain national park **420**), restricted residential developments (e.g., Habitat private resort **422**, all roads & streets in Sunset Village **426**, Nottingham retirement community **428**), and educational and business locations (e.g., Emerald City urban center between Central Ave/River Rd/Aspen Dr/State St **424**, Ford College campus & research park **427**).

FIG. 6 is a tabular representation that includes data tables **470** showing examples of varied alternative routes **475**, **515**, **535** and their respective compliance states **490**, **490a**, **490b** and fee schedules **510**, **510a**, **510b** relative to an administrative vehicle standard. For example, an alternate route via Lincoln Bridge **475** requires a separate payment charge for each trip based on its own customized compliance schedule. As another example, an alternative route via Madison Bridge **515** requires an all-day pass payment based on its own customized compliance schedule. As a further example, an alternative route via Lake Toll Road **535** requires a payment at each periodic exit toll station based on its own customized compliance schedule.

It is noted that in some circumstances, a different exemplary alternative route via a conventional highway or frontage road **530** may provide a slower trip for which a vehicle administrative standard is not applicable **532** and therefore no payment is required.

More specifically with respect to the Lincoln Bridge **475**, a possible vehicle operation mode category **480** entitled “share” **482** has a compliance state **490** of “at least one passenger” **492** with a dual payment status **500**. The dual payment status **500** may include a “passenger share basis” **502** requiring a ten dollar fee, or else a “combo share with battery or bio-fuel basis” **503** requiring a lesser five dollar fee. Another possible vehicle operation mode category **480** entitled “battery” **484** has a compliance state **490** of “solely electric power” **494** with a payment status **500** called “battery power basis” **504** requiring an eight dollar fee. A further possible vehicle operation mode category **480** entitled “bio-fuel” **486** has a compliance state **490** of “solely bio-fuel combustion” **496** with a payment status **500** called “bio-fuel basis” **506** requiring an eight dollar fee. Yet another possible vehicle operation mode category **480** entitled “exemption” **488** has a compliance state **490** of “authorized pre-payment” **498** with a payment status **500** called “exemption basis” **508** requiring a higher twenty dollar fee.

More specifically with respect to the Madison Bridge **515**, a possible vehicle operation mode category **480a** entitled “solo” **514** has a compliance state **490a** of “no passenger” **522** requiring a rather high thirty dollar fee. Another possible vehicle operation mode category **480a** entitled “pool” **516** has a compliance state **490a** of “one/two passengers” **524** requiring a lesser twenty dollar fee. Another possible vehicle operation mode category **480a** entitled “group” **518** has a compliance state **490a** of “three or more passengers” **526** requiring a lowest ten dollar fee.

More specifically with respect to the Lake Toll Road **535**, a possible vehicle operation mode category **480b** entitled “zero emissions” **544** has a compliance state **490b** of three separate classifications **552**, including a first basis of “electric power vehicle”, a second basis of “solely electric mode (hybrid engine)”, and a third basis of “certified low combustion emission”, wherein each basis qualifies for waiver of any payment fee. Another possible vehicle operation mode category **480b** entitled “high occupancy vehicle (HOV)” **546** has a compliance state **490b** of “at least two passengers” **545** that also qualifies for waiver of any payment fee. A further possible vehicle operation mode category **480b** entitled “cash/credit exemption” **548** has a compliance state **490b** of “daily/weekly/monthly rate” **556** requiring a twenty five dollar daily fee, a one hundred dollar weekly fee, and a three hundred fifty dollar monthly fee.

Of course, it will be understood that the various references herein to an administrative standard that includes payment status based on fees and/or dollar amounts are for purposes of illustration only and are not intended to be limiting. Other types of compliance requirements that are based on non-monetary valuation or qualification may be incorporated as part of the administrative standard, including items or topics or behavior that are deemed to be appropriate with respect to the desired goals and policies of such administrative standard.

FIGS. 7-8 are tabular representations that includes data tables **570**, **680** showing examples of varied destinations **575**, **620**, **685**, **720** that provide consequential results **600**, **600a**, **600b**, **600c** respectively based on correlated vehicle operation modes **610**, **610a**, **600b**, **600c**. It will be understood that the specific type of destinations shown including café-type destinations **575** and retail/wholesale store and mall-type destinations **620** and parking destinations **685** and overnight accommodations **720** are for purposes of illustration only, and are not intended to be limiting.

Although a chain of affiliated product or service entities at different locations may provide identical consequential results associated with identically correlated vehicle opera-

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tion modes, the individual destinations illustrated in FIGS. 7-8 are depicted with different characteristics to better illustrate a variety of possible choices that may be available to a particular vehicle and/or its occupants.

For example as depicted in FIG. 7, a café-type destination entity entitled Sizzle **582** along the Parkway route **529** may provide to a qualified recipient an award or value or advantage that includes “food discount & high-voltage battery recharge” **602** based on an implemented “electric power” vehicle mode **612**; a café-type destination entity entitled Lake-Vu **584** along the State Street route **594** may provide to a qualified recipient an award or value or advantage that includes “food discount & bio-fuel discount” **604** based on an implemented “low emission” vehicle mode **614**; a café-type destination entity entitled Dan’s **585** along the Tri-Tunnel route **595** may provide to a qualified recipient an award or value or advantage that includes “food discount & gas/diesel discount” based on an implemented “multi-passenger” vehicle mode **615**.

As further examples, a café-type destination entity entitled Mid-Lake Mall **586** along the Parkway or Toll Road route **596** may provide to a qualified recipient an award or value or advantage that includes “food & product purchase discounts & access to low-voltage recharge” **606** based on an implemented “multi-passenger or electric power” vehicle mode **616**; and a café-type destination entity entitled Eatery Buffet **588** along the Highway with HOV Lane **598** may provide to a qualified recipient an award or value or advantage that includes “food discount plus free movie tickets for all vehicle occupants” **608** based on “qualified HOV use” vehicle mode **618**.

As additional examples depicted in FIG. 7, a retail store destination entity entitled Import Wow **624** along the Sunset Village route **632** may provide to a qualified recipient an award or value or advantage that includes a “discount for driver & owner” **642** based on a “qualified HOV use” vehicle mode **654**; and a retail store destination entity entitled Price-Plus **624** along the Viaduct route **624** may provide to a qualified recipient an award or value or advantage that includes “battery replacement & discount recharge & discount gas/diesel” **644** based on an implemented “multi-passenger” vehicle mode **654**.

As added examples, a wholesale or retail store entity entitled U-Buy Service Center **626** at a mall-type destination near an exit from the HOV lane of U.S. Highway route **636** may provide to a qualified recipient an award or value or advantage that includes “discounted car accessories/repair & discounted high-voltage or low-voltage recharge or discounted bio-fuel” **646** based on an implemented “low emission or electric power or bio-fuel” vehicle mode **656**; and a mall-type destination entitled Fashion Mall & Triplex Theaters & Terrace Parking **628** that can be reached via multiple routes and areas **638** may provide to a qualified recipient an award or value or advantage that includes “variable discounts for parking & purchases & movie tickets & fuel & battery recharge & meals & groceries” **648** based on implemented “diverse vehicle mode qualifications for each entity” **658**.

Referring to more examples as depicted in FIG. 8, a parking destination entitled Early Bird **682** that can be reached via the Parkway route **692** may provide to a qualified recipient an award or value or advantage that includes “low-voltage recharge & pre-8 am discount” **702** based on an implemented “electric power” vehicle mode **712**; a parking destination entitled Self-Park **684** that can be reached via the Viaduct route **694** may provide to a qualified recipient an award or value or advantage that includes “daily or weekly discount rate” based on an implemented “low emission or bio-fuel” vehicle mode **714**; and a parking destination entitled Muni-

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Park **686** that can be reached via any HOV Lane **696** may provide to a qualified recipient an award or value or advantage that includes “free shuttle to office buildings” **706** based on an implemented “multi-passenger” vehicle mode **716**.

With reference to more examples, an overnight accommodation destination entitled Whiz Motel **722** along the Parkway route **732** may provide to a qualified recipient an award or value or advantage that includes “room & recharge discounts” **742** based on an implemented “electric power” vehicle mode **752**; an overnight accommodation destination entitled Nu-Inn **724** along the Viaduct route **734** may provide to a qualified recipient an award or value or advantage that includes “free breakfast & discounted bio-fuel” **744** based on an implemented “low emissions or bio-fuel” vehicle mode **754**; and an overnight accommodation destination entitled Marquis Hotel **726** that can be reached via any HOV Lane or the Parkway or the Toll Road **736** may provide to a qualified recipient an award or value or advantage that includes “discounted rooms, free parking with low-voltage or high-voltage recharge” **746** based on a “qualification receipt from HOV lane or Parkway or Toll Road” **756**.

It will be understood that the types of possible award or value or advantage depicted in the exemplary embodiments of FIGS. 7 and 8 are for purposes of illustration and are not intended to be limiting. Many other diverse monetary and non-monetary consequential results may be provided in connection with products and services that may be available at a specified destination to a qualified recipient.

The schematic representation of FIG. 9 illustrates exemplary embodiment features that provide possible certification techniques for various types of consequential results related to vehicle **760** traveling along a designated path **790** toward one or more destinations **791, 792, 723**. Vehicle **760** may include a driver (e.g., operator) **761** and passengers **762, 763** and may further include a communication unit **765** having a user interface **766** available to the driver **761** and/or passengers **762, 763**. In some implementations the communication unit **765** also may be linked to an on-board GPS (global positioning system) **770**, and linked to on-board data records **768**, and linked via transceiver **78** to one or more remote communication units **765a**. Exemplary informational data sent to and from the communication unit **765** may relate to selected vehicle operation modes that are actually implemented in vehicle **770** during travel via a particular route or area. Other data inputs to and from communication unit **765** may relate to a preferred consequential result that includes certification of an actual award or value or advantage correlated with the selected vehicle operation mode.

For example, a data message from communication unit **765** may constitute a vehicle mode notification **775** sent to certification module **780** for determination of attainment of an actual consequential result, based on data records **777** that include a listing of a possible award or value or advantage **778** and a listing of their respective correlated vehicle operation modes **779**. The certification module **780** may include processing circuits and/or software capable of making such a determination, and also configured to send a certification response **785** to a qualified recipient (e.g., vehicle **76**, driver **761**, passengers **762, 763**, etc.) via transceiver **773**. A responsible party providing the consequential result **782** may also be linked to certification module **78** to receive updated certification status information.

As a further example, a separate certification module **780a** may be configured to make a determination of attainment of an actual award or value or advantage associated with a correlated vehicle operation mode based on related data records **777a**. The certification module **780a** may include processing

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circuits and/or software capable of making such a determination regarding a consequential result associated with specified destinations **791**, **792**, **793**. A certification of the actual attainment of such consequential result **794** can be sent to a qualified recipient via communication unit **765** or via a remote communication unit **772**.

As another example, a separate certification module **780b** may be configured to make a determination of attainment of an actual award or value or advantage associated with a correlated vehicle operation mode based on related data records **777b**. The certification module **780b** may include processing circuits and/or software capable of making such a determination regarding a consequential result associated with a particular route or area **790a**, **790b**, **790c**. A certification of actual attainment of such consequential result **795** can be sent to a qualified recipient via communication unit **765** or via a remote communication unit **772**.

As an additional example, a separate certification module **780c** may be configured to make a determination of attainment of an award or value or advantage associated with a correlated vehicle operation mode based on related data records **777c**. The certification module **780c** may include processing circuits and/or software capable of making such a determination regarding a consequential result that involves monitoring an applicable vehicle operation parameter **767**. Such monitoring may be accomplished by various sensors including various types of electro-mechanical devices (e.g., see FIG. 2). A certification of actual attainment of a preferable vehicle paradigm **768** can be sent to a qualified recipient via communication unit **765** or via a remote communication unit **772**.

In a general sense, those skilled in the art will recognize that the various embodiments described herein can be implemented, individually and/or collectively, by various types of electro-mechanical systems having a wide range of electrical components such as hardware, software, firmware, and/or virtually any combination thereof; and a wide range of components that may impart mechanical force or motion such as rigid bodies, spring or torsional bodies, hydraulics, electro-magnetically actuated devices, and/or virtually any combination thereof. Consequently, as used herein “electro-mechanical system” includes, but is not limited to, electrical circuitry operably coupled with a transducer (e.g., an actuator, a motor, a piezoelectric crystal, a Micro Electro Mechanical System (MEMS), etc.), electrical circuitry having at least one discrete electrical circuit, electrical circuitry having at least one integrated circuit, electrical circuitry having at least one application specific integrated circuit, electrical circuitry forming a general purpose computing device configured by a computer program (e.g., a general purpose computer configured by a computer program which at least partially carries out processes and/or devices described herein, or a microprocessor configured by a computer program which at least partially carries out processes and/or devices described herein), electrical circuitry forming a memory device (e.g., forms of memory (e.g., random access, flash, read only, etc.)), electrical circuitry forming a communications device (e.g., a modem, communications switch, optical-electrical equipment, etc.), and/or any non-electrical analog thereto, such as optical or other analogs. Those skilled in the art will also appreciate that examples of electro-mechanical systems include but are not limited to a variety of consumer electronics systems, medical devices, as well as other systems such as motorized transport systems, factory automation systems, security systems, and/or communication/computing systems. Those skilled in the art will recognize that electro-mechanical

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as used herein is not necessarily limited to a system that has both electrical and mechanical actuation except as context may dictate otherwise.

Referring to the high level flow chart of FIG. 10, an exemplary process embodiment **800** provides a method for selective control of a vehicle operation mode (block **801**) that may include obtaining information regarding a compliance state relative to a given administrative standard defining a predetermined vehicle operation mode of a vehicle traveling via a particular route or area (block **802**), wherein the compliance state corresponds to a first benefit that accrues based on conformity with the given administrative standard (block **803**); and identifying a preferred consequential result that is different from the first benefit, which preferred consequential result correlates with one or more optional vehicle operational modes (block **804**). Other possible process components may include making a user-selection to implement the one or more optional vehicle operational modes in a manner to attain the preferred consequential result (block **806**), wherein the implemented vehicle operational mode modifies a conformity status of the given administrative standard (block **807**).

The process embodiment features **810** illustrated in the more detailed flow chart of FIG. 11 may include previously described features **802**, **803**, **804**, **806**, **807**, wherein making the user-selection to implement the one or more optional vehicle operational modes prevents full conformity with the given administrative standard by the vehicle (block **811**). A further implementation feature may include, responsive to the implementation of the one or more optional vehicle operation modes, forfeiting all or part of the first benefit due to the modified conformity status regarding the given administrative standard, wherein the modified conformity status does not prevent attainment of the identified preferred consequential result (block **812**).

Other possible process aspects may include, responsive to the implementation of the one or more optional vehicle operation modes, obtaining a second benefit that accrues due to the modified conformity status, which second benefit is based on a qualification with another compliance state applicable to the vehicle, wherein the modified conformity status does not prevent attainment of the identified preferred consequential result (block **813**). Other related aspects may include obtaining the second accrued benefit based on a qualification with two or more compliance states applicable to the vehicle (block **814**), and obtaining the second accrued benefit based on an exemption from the predetermined vehicle operation mode, which exemption requires additional payment or other consideration to qualify for the exemption (block **816**).

Referring to the various embodiment features **820** illustrated in FIG. 12, a possible process implementation may include previously described operations **802**, **803**, **804**, **806**, **807**, as well as obtaining information regarding the one or more possible travel routes or areas having different respective compliance states and/or different respective accrued benefits (block **821**). In some instances a process embodiment may include obtaining information regarding one or more applicable compliance states and/or their respective accrued benefit (block **822**), wherein in some implementations such obtained information may be indicated on a communication device accessible in the vehicle (block **823**), or such obtained information may be indicated on a communication device accessible to an operator or driver or passenger or owner or lessor or lessee or fleet manager of the vehicle (block **824**). A further related aspect may include obtaining information regarding one or more applicable compliance states and/or their respective accrued benefit (block **822**), wherein in some implementations such information is accessible prior to mak-

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ing the user-selected implementation of the one or more optional vehicle operational modes (block **826**).

Additional possible process features depicted in FIG. **12** may include obtaining information regarding a compliance state that includes one or more of the following types of qualification requirements: number of passengers, HOV lane account status, toll road account status, public road standard, public area standard, private road standard, private area standard, electric power mode, combustion/electric hybrid mode, combustion fuel content, bio-fuel content, natural gas fuel, engine efficiency, miles/per/gallon calibration, combustion emission, zero-emissions, exhaust content, maximum speed limitation (block **827**). Another exemplary process feature may include acquiring information regarding two or more possible consequential results which are respectively based on selective implementation of different optional vehicle operation modes (block **828**).

The various exemplary process embodiment features **830** disclosed in the flow chart of FIG. **13** may include previously described components **802, 803, 804, 806, 807** in combination with obtaining information regarding one or more applicable compliance states and/or their respective accrued benefit (block **822**). Further related component features may include obtaining such information that is accessible prior to choosing a type of vehicle to travel via the particular route or area subject to the given administrative standard (block **831**), or obtaining such information that is accessible prior to proceeding along the particular route or area subject to the given administrative standard (block **832**).

In some instances another process feature may include acquiring information regarding one or more possible consequential results (block **833**), wherein such acquired information may be indicated on a communication device accessible in the vehicle (block **834**) or may be indicated on a communication device accessible to an operator or driver or passenger or owner or lessor or lessee or fleet manager of the vehicle (block **836**).

As further illustrated in FIG. **13**, some process embodiments may include acquiring information regarding one or more possible consequential results (block **833**). Related process component may further include acquiring accessible information regarding the consequential result prior to making the user-selected implementation of the one or more optional vehicle operation modes (block **837**), or acquiring accessible information regarding the consequential result prior to choosing a type of vehicle to travel via the particular route or area subject to the given administrative standard (block **838**), or acquiring accessible information regarding the consequential result prior to proceeding along the particular route or area subject to the given administrative standard (block **839**).

Referring to the detailed flow chart of FIG. **14**, exemplary process features **840** may include previously described aspects **802, 803, 804, 806, 807** along with confirming availability of the identified preferred consequential result that includes an award or value or advantage to one or more of the following type of qualified recipients: vehicle, operator, driver, passenger, vehicle owner, vehicle lessor, vehicle lessee, vehicle fleet owner, vehicle fleet manager (block **841**). Another possible process aspect may include confirming availability of the identified preferred consequential result that is dependent upon arrival of the vehicle at a specified destination (block **848**).

In some exemplary process embodiments, an operational feature may include confirming availability of the identified preferred consequential result indicated on a communication device (block **842**). Related features may include confirming

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availability on a communication device accessible in the vehicle (block **843**), or confirming availability on a communication device located remotely from the vehicle (block **844**), or confirming availability of the identified preferred consequential result on a mobile communication device (block **847**). In some instances a process embodiment may include confirming availability on a communication device that is accessible to one or more of the following: operator, driver, passenger, vehicle owner, vehicle lessor, vehicle lessee, vehicle fleet owner, vehicle fleet manager (block **846**).

The detailed flow chart of FIG. **15** depicts various exemplary process features **850** including previously described components **802, 803, 804, 806, 807** in combination with receiving information regarding travel via alternative routes or areas which have different respective compliance states and/or accrued benefits based on an applicable given administrative standard (block **851**). Other possible process aspects may include forfeiting all or part of the corresponding benefit, responsive to the modified conformity status that occurs from traveling via a chosen alternative route or area (block **852**), and wherein in some implementations the modified conformity status does not prevent attainment of the identified preferred consequential result (block **853**).

Additional embodiments may include receiving information regarding travel to a specified destination via alternative routes or areas that are respectively subject to an applicable given administrative standard (block **854**), wherein in some implementations availability of the identified preferred consequential result is dependent upon arrival of the vehicle at the specified destination (block **856**). Further possible aspects may include receiving information regarding one or more possible consequential results respectively available at one or more of the following types of alternate specified destinations: primary destination, secondary destination, alternate destination, intermediate destination (block **857**).

The exemplary process embodiment features **860** of FIG. **16** include previously described operations **802, 803, 804, 806, 807** along with forfeiting all or part of the corresponding benefit, responsive to the modified conformity status that occurs from traveling to the specified destination via a chosen route or area (block **861**), wherein in some implementations the modified conformity status does not prevent attainment of the identified preferred consequential result available upon arrival at the specified destination (block **862**).

Also depicted in FIG. **16** are previously described operations **854, 856** along with confirming the availability at a specified destination of the identified preferred consequential result that includes one or more of the following: battery recharge station, battery renewal facility, high-voltage recharge station, low-voltage recharge station, battery replacement station, priority battery service, fuel supply station, diesel combustion fuel station, gasoline combustion fuel station, natural gas fuel station, bio-fuel station, priority fuel service (block **863**). A further process aspect may include confirming the availability of the identified preferred consequential at one or more of the following types of specified destination: parking facility, overnight accommodation, residence, office facility, vehicle repair station, vehicle accessory store, Internet access location, public transit station, private transit site, rented-vehicle return site, vehicle inspection location, jurisdictional border, licensing authority, tax assessment site, monitoring unit, detection lane (block **864**).

Referring to the detailed flow chart of FIG. **17**, variously illustrated embodiment features **870** include previously described process aspects **802, 803, 804, 806, 807** in combination with obtaining information regarding one or more applicable compliance states and/or their respective accrued

benefit based on a temporal period of travel subject to the given administrative standard (block **871**). Additional related process aspects may include obtaining information regarding one or more possible temporal periods of travel having different respective compliance states and/or different respective accrued benefits (block **872**). Other possible implementation features may include making a user-selected implementation of the one or more optional vehicle operational modes which prevents the vehicle from qualifying with the compliance state applicable during the temporal period of travel subject to the administrative standard (block **873**).

Additional possible process aspects depicted in FIG. **17** may include forfeiting all or part of the corresponding benefit responsive to the modified conformity status arising from the temporal period of travel for the vehicle, wherein the modified conformity status does not prevent attainment of the identified preferred consequential result (block **874**). Some implementations may include obtaining information for the given administrative standard that defines the predetermined vehicle operation mode of the vehicle traveling during one or more of the following types of temporal periods: seasonal, storm occurrence, weather warning, weather situation, smog alert, time-of-day, night-time, commuter hours, imminent event, ongoing event, traffic congestion, road closure, dangerous road condition, road construction, road repair, travel accident (block **876**).

Another exemplary process feature may include obtaining information for the given administrative standard that defines the predetermined vehicle operation mode of the vehicle traveling during the temporal time period that includes a designated high-traffic time period or a designated air quality time period or a designated natural phenomenon time period (block **877**).

The detailed flow chart of FIG. **18** illustrates further possible process aspects **880** including previously described components **802**, **803**, **804**, **806**, **807** in combination with selecting one or more configurable vehicle operating parameters to maintain a preferable vehicle paradigm during all or a portion of travel via the particular route or area that is subject to the given administrative standard (block **881**). Additional aspects may include obtaining information regarding the one or more possible travel routes or possible travel areas having different respective compliance states and/or different respective accrued benefits (block **882**).

Additional possible aspects related to the preferable vehicle paradigm may include maintaining the preferable vehicle paradigm that prevents qualifying for the respective compliance state applicable to a chosen travel route or chosen travel area (block **883**), and may further include forfeiting all or part of the corresponding benefit due to the modified conformity status that occurs in connection with maintaining the preferable vehicle paradigm (block **884**). In some instances the modified conformity status caused by the preferable vehicle paradigm does not prevent attainment of the identified preferred consequential result (block **886**).

As further depicted in FIG. **18**, an exemplary process may include enabling implementation of a preferable battery charging/discharging paradigm in a manner to attain the consequential result (block **887**), and may further include enabling implementation of a preferable exhaust paradigm for fuel emissions in a manner to attain the consequential result (block **888**). Another possible process feature may include enabling implementation of a calibrated temperature paradigm for a vehicle component in a manner to attain the consequential result (block **889**).

Referring to FIG. **19**, additional exemplary process features **900** may include previously described operations **802**,

803, **804**, **806**, **807**, **881** along with enabling implementation of an electrical power paradigm for a hybrid engine in a manner to attain the consequential result (block **902**). A further related process feature may include enabling implementation of a combustion power paradigm for a hybrid engine in a manner to attain the consequential result (block **903**).

Other possible process aspects depicted in FIG. **19** may include enabling implementation of a limited velocity paradigm based on a maximum speed or minimum speed or speed range in a manner to attain the consequential result (block **904**). Additional aspects may include enabling implementation of a preferred vehicle velocity paradigm to achieve a proposed targeted arrival time at a chosen destination (block **906**). A further exemplary aspect may include enabling implementation of a preferred vehicle power paradigm for achieving an appropriate vehicle acceleration or vehicle speed range based on current travel conditions on a particular route or in a particular area or during a temporal period of travel subject to the given administrative standard (block **907**).

Some exemplary process embodiments may also enabling implementation of the preferred vehicle power paradigm in an electric/combustion hybrid vehicle (block **908**).

The various exemplary process embodiment features **910** illustrated in FIG. **20** may include previously described components **802**, **803**, **804**, **806**, **807**, **881** as well as enabling implementation of preferable fuel composition paradigm for a combustion engine in a manner to attain the consequential result (block **911**). An additional possible process feature may include selecting one or more of the following types of configurable vehicle operation parameter to attain one or more preferred consequential results: number of passengers, battery-powered mode, combustion-powered mode, bio-fuel mode, bio-fuel blend mode, natural gas mode, electric power mode, low emission mode, calibrated miles/per/gallon mode, battery-charge mode, battery-discharge mode, low-temperature engine mode, electric/combustion hybrid mode, solely electric power mode, primarily electric power mode, solely fuel combustion mode, primarily fuel combustion mode, safety certification mode, environmental certification mode, emission content, zero emissions, approved catalytic converter, speed-limiter activated, turned-on headlights (block **912**).

The detailed flow chart of FIG. **21** illustrates various embodiment features **920** including previously described components **802**, **803**, **804**, **806**, **807** in combination with various aspects relating to an identified preferred consequential result. For example, in some instances an exemplary process may include receiving confirmation of one or more of the following types of actual vehicle battery benefits included as part of the identified preferred consequential result: priority access to battery recharge station, priority battery servicing, reduced cost for battery recharge, free battery renewal service, customized battery recharge, discounted cost for battery replacement, special warranty on new battery purchase, higher quality battery purchase at standard price (block **921**).

Additional exemplary process aspects may include receiving confirmation for one or more of the following types of actual award or value or advantage included as part of the identified preferred consequential result: reduced vehicle registration fees, reduced fuel price, priority fuel purchase, preferred parking location, reduced parking fee, tax credit, traffic lane usage, bridge usage, reduced toll rate, financial rebate, store discount, product discount, membership offer (block **922**). In some instances a possible process aspect may include receiving confirmation of an actual award or value or advantage included as part of the identified preferred consequential

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result, which confirmation is received at one or more of the following types of destination: parking lot, road exit, traffic lane entry, traffic lane exit, bridge entry, bridge exit, retail store, service store, event location, event ticket office, transit station (block 923).

The exemplary embodiment features 930 illustrated in FIG. 22 include previously described operations 802, 803, 804, 806, 807 as well as receiving confirmation of an actual award or value or advantage, which confirmation is provided by or on behalf of a person or entity associated with the identified preferred consequential result (block 931). Additional related aspects may include receiving confirmation of an actual award or value or advantage, which confirmation is encoded on an electronic record associated with the vehicle (block 932). In some instances an exemplary process may include receiving confirmation of an actual award or value or advantage, which confirmation is encoded on an electronic record associated with an operator or driver or passenger or owner or lessor or lessee or fleet manager of the vehicle (block 933). Other possible aspects may include receiving confirmation of an actual award or value or advantage, which confirmation is posted to an account record or an electronic card associated with the vehicle (block 936).

Further possible aspect illustrated in FIG. 22 may include receiving confirmation of an actual award or value or advantage included as part of the identified preferred consequential result, wherein such confirmation posted to an account record or an electronic card associated with an operator or driver or passenger or owner or lessor or lessee or fleet manager of the vehicle (block 937). Some implementations may include receiving confirmation of an actual award or value or advantage included as part of the identified preferred consequential result, which confirmation is received upon arrival at a specified destination associated with the identified preferred consequential result (block 938).

Referring to FIG. 23, various possible process features 940 are depicted including previously described components 802, 803, 804, 806, 807, 931. An additional possible process feature may include receiving confirmation of an actual award or value or advantage provided by or on behalf of one or more of the following: vehicle manufacturer, vehicle sales entity, governmental entity, environmental entity, insurance company, insurance sales agent, fuel manufacturer, fuel sales entity, vehicle engine/component manufacturer, vehicle engine/component (block 943).

Some exemplary embodiments may include making one or more of the following type of user-initiated control actions: voice command, tactile touching, gesture, hand manipulation, foot manipulation (block 946). Other possible exemplary features may include activating one or more of the following types of device: button, lever, dial, switch, keyboard, mouse, pedal, lever, switch (block 947). In some instances a process embodiment may include causing an over-ride or cancellation of a default vehicle operational mode during travel on the particular route or area and/or during travel during a temporal period, which is subject to the given administrative standard (block 948).

The detailed flow chart of FIG. 24 depicts various exemplary process features 950 including previously described operations 802, 803, 804, 806, 807 in combination with communicating a notification of the user-selected implementation of the one or more optional vehicle operational modes, wherein the notification is provided to a person or entity associated with the identified preferred consequential result (block 952). A further possible process features includes receiving certification of an actual award or value or advantage included as part of the identified preferred consequential

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result, which certification is responsive to the communicated notification (block 954).

Other possible aspects regarding certification of the identified preferred consequential result that includes an actual award or value or advantage may include receiving the certification via a communication device accessible in the vehicle (block 956), receiving the certification that delineates a qualified recipient of the award or value or advantage (block 957), and receiving the certification that includes a description of the award or value or advantage (block 958).

Also illustrated in FIG. 24 are additional exemplary process aspects including selecting one or more configurable vehicle operating parameters to attain the preferred consequential result, wherein such selected vehicle operating parameter also enables conformity with one or more possible compliance states relative to the given administrative standard (block 962). Further possible process aspects may include causing a modified conformity status that provides an accrued second benefit of different value as compared to the accrued first benefit (block 964), and causing a modified conformity status that provides an accrued second benefit of lesser value as compared to the accrued first benefit (block 966).

FIG. 25 is a diagrammatic flow chart for an exemplary computer program product 980 that provides computer readable media having encoded instructions for executing a method (block 981) that may include storing information regarding a compliance state relative to a given administrative standard defining a predetermined vehicle operation mode applicable to a particular route or area (block 982); storing information regarding a first benefit that accrues based on the compliance state that is in conformity with the given administrative standard (block 983); and implementing a user-selection of an optional vehicle operational mode in a manner to attain an identified preferred consequential result that is different from the first benefit (block 984), wherein the implemented vehicle operational mode modifies a conformity status of the given administrative standard (block 985).

Referring to the schematic block diagram of FIG. 26, an exemplary vehicle system for varied compliance benefits may include communication module 1000 having processor 1046, controller 1047, memory 1048, and one or more applications 1049. The communication module 1000 may be incorporated in or as part of a vehicle (e.g., see unit 52 in FIG. 1) or be available away from the vehicle (e.g., see mobile unit 56 in FIG. 1). Various types of user interfaces may be incorporated in or operably coupled with the communication module 1000 including but not limited to keyboard 1052, voice receiver 1053, audio speaker 1054, touch screen 1056, data status display 1062 and messaging display 1064 to facilitate interactive communications by various types of users associated with the vehicle such as a driver, operator, owner, passenger, lessor, lessee, or fleet manager. Additional input devices such as scanner 1057 and/or output devices such as printer 1058 may also be provided, as well as travel map 1064 linked with a GPS (e.g., see GPS 82 in FIG. 1) to provide helpful user-guidance regarding one or more alternative routes 1066 subject to various administrative standards. Additional data may be accessible regarding alternate destinations 1067 associated with possible consequential results correlated with one or more optional vehicle operational modes.

A compliance module 1040 for a given administrative vehicle standard may be located onboard the vehicle (e.g., see compliance unit 275 in FIG. 4) or remotely from the vehicle (e.g., see remote compliance unit 280 in FIG. 4), and configured with circuitry and/or application programs to process

user-selected vehicle modes associated with appropriate accrued benefits **1042** as well as associated with any cost or penalty or detriment based on a compliance state of the vehicle.

In some exemplary embodiments, administrative standard data records **1010** may be located remotely from the vehicle (e.g., see remote data records **290**, **310** in FIG. 4). Such administrative standard data records **1010** may include informational data regarding one or more applicable compliance states **1012** and their respective corresponding benefits **1013** regarding a travel route or travel area or temporal travel period subject to the administrative standard. Data inputs that include a vehicle operational mode status **1017** and one or more vehicle operating parameters may be provided via communication links with various types of vehicle detection and monitoring devices **1020** (e.g., see FIG. 2).

In certain exemplary embodiments, consequential result data records **1030** may be located separately from the vehicle (e.g., see external data records **340**, **360** in FIG. 4), and may include informational data regarding a correlated award or value or advantage **1032** available to a qualified recipient based on notification from the vehicle detection and monitoring devices **1020**. The consequential result data records **1030** may also include additional informational data received via notification from the vehicle detection and monitoring devices **1020** regarding a preferable vehicle operating paradigm. It will be understood that in some instances a user-selected optional vehicle operational mode **1017** and/or implementation of certain vehicle operating parameters **1016** may cause a deviated compliance status for a vehicle, in order to attain a preferable consequential result that is different from an accrued benefit available pursuant to a given administrative standard.

Additional types of data input to the consequential result data records **1030** may include listings of consequential results that are currently available **1036** as well as certification of preferred consequential results **1037** for qualified recipients.

Various types of transmission links (e.g., wireless, wired) may be provided between the consequential result data records **1030** and the communication module **1000**. Similarly various types of transmission links (e.g., wireless, wired) may be provided between the administrative standard data records **1010** and the compliance module for administrative standard **1043**, as well as between the administrative standard data records **1010** and the communication module **1000**.

The embodiment depicted in FIG. 27 illustrates an exemplary display of a processed matrix data table for comparative vehicle modes **1075**. The exemplary data entries are provided for purposes of illustration only and are not intended to be limiting. For example, a central data column indicates a detection of user-selected vehicle mode **1082**; a corresponding left column indicates a determination of administrative standard conformity status and compliance states **1080**; and a corresponding right column indicates a correlated consequential result different from accrued compliance benefit **1084**.

In one example, a particular travel route **1081** for a vehicle may include a “multi-passenger compliance state only” wherein an accrued benefit may include “no fee due for vehicle with two or more passengers” based on the following monitored and/or detected vehicle modes: electric engine mode & two passenger mode **1083**. Such vehicle modes may entitle a recipient to be “qualified for a destination award or value or advantage based on electric mode” **1085**.

In another example, a particular travel route **1086** for a vehicle may include a “non-fee electric compliance state” as

well as a “low fee for single passenger state” wherein an accrued benefit may include “payment of low fee for HOV lane” based on the following monitored and/or detected vehicle modes: combustion engine mode & single passenger mode **1087**. Such vehicle modes may entitle a recipient to be “qualified for reduced battery discharge paradigm” as well as “not qualified for an electric mode destination award or value” **1088**.

As a further example, a particular travel route **1091** for a vehicle may include a “payment of administrative standard fee for travel on alternative bridge route to reach specified destination” wherein an accrued benefit may include access to such bridge route without any required vehicle mode. Nevertheless a user-selected “bio-fuel combustion mode” **1092** may entitle a recipient to be “qualified for reduced battery discharge paradigm” as well as “qualified for destination award or value or advantage based on bio-fuel mode” **1093**.

As an additional example, a particular travel route **1094** for a vehicle may include “no conformity with any applicable compliance state for accrued benefit” wherein an accrued benefit of access to a toll road is based on an exemption that provides “payment of toll road access fee”. Nevertheless a user-selected “electric/combustion dual engine mode” **1095** may entitle a recipient to “choose high-speed route to qualify for early priority parking at destination having high-voltage battery recharge” **1096**.

As yet another example, a particular travel area **1097** for a vehicle may include a “non-fee electric mode compliance state for travel through smog control area” as well as “lower fee for non-pollutant exhaust” wherein there is no accrued benefit other than access to the area based on a “paid maximum rate exemption fee”. Nevertheless a user-selected “combustion engine mode” **1098** may entitle a recipient to “choose combustion mode to qualify for reduced battery discharge paradigm” **1099** despite having a user-selected “non-catalytic exhaust emission” **1098**.

Referring to the high level flow chart of FIG. 28, an exemplary process embodiment may provide a method for detection and processing of vehicle operation mode data (block **1311**), including establishing an identity for a vehicle traveling via a particular route or area that is subject to a given administrative standard (block **1312**), and presenting user-access to varied compliance states and their corresponding benefits pursuant to the given administrative standard (block **1313**), wherein the corresponding benefits accrue to a qualified recipient based on a detected conformity status of the vehicle when traveling via the particular route or area (block **1314**). An additional aspect may include receiving a notification directly or indirectly from the vehicle that confirms an implementation during an applicable period of at least one selected optional vehicle operational mode sufficient to attain the preferred consequential result correlated with one or more possible vehicle operational modes (block **1317**).

Other possible process features may include providing user-accessible information that indicates the correlation between the preferred consequential result and one or more possible vehicle operational modes (block **1316**), and determining a deviation of the conformity status caused by the selected optional vehicle operational mode (block **1318**), wherein the deviated conformity status does not prevent attainment of the preferred consequential result (block **1315**).

In some instances another process aspect may include providing user-accessible information regarding the preferred consequential result that includes an award or value or advantage different from the corresponding benefit available pursuant to the given administrative standard (block **1319**).

Additional exemplary embodiment aspects **1320** are illustrated in the flow chart of FIG. **29** including previously described operations **1312**, **1313**, **1314**, **1316**, **1317**, **1318** as well further possible features such as responsive to receiving the notification from the vehicle, providing a remote data record including user-accessible information that confirms forfeiture of all or part of the corresponding benefit, due to the deviated conformity status that occurs from traveling via the particular route or area that is subject to the given administrative standard (block **1321**). Other possible process aspects may include responsive to receiving the notification from the vehicle, providing user-accessible compliance data regarding a further accrued benefit due to the deviated conformity status, which further accrued benefit is based on qualification with another compliance state applicable to the vehicle (block **1322**).

Other exemplary process features may include providing the user-accessible compliance data regarding the further accrued benefit that is based on qualification with two or more compliance states applicable to the vehicle (block **1326**); and may further include providing user-accessible compliance data regarding the further accrued benefit based on an exemption from the compliance state applicable to the vehicle, which exemption requires additional payment or other consideration to qualify for the exemption (block **1327**).

Referring to FIG. **30**, some exemplary embodiment features **1330** may include previously described aspects **1312**, **1313**, **1314**, **1317**, **1318** in combination with providing user-accessible compliance data indicative of one or more alternative travel routes or areas having different respective compliance states and/or different respective corresponding benefits (block **1333**). Other possible aspects may include responsive to receiving the notification from the vehicle, providing user-accessible compliance data indicating a cost or penalty or other detriment arising from the deviated conformity status regarding the given administrative standard (block **1331**). Another exemplary feature may include responsive to receiving the notification from the vehicle, providing user-accessible comparative information indicating that the deviated conformity status does not prevent attainment of the preferred consequential result (block **1332**).

Also depicted in the flow chart of FIG. **30** is a possible process aspect that includes providing user-accessible compliance data regarding one or more applicable compliance states and/or their respective corresponding benefit, wherein the user-accessible compliance data is indicated via a communication link or on a communication device accessible to one or more of the following: administrative standard enforcement entity, vehicle insurance entity, government agency, provider of corresponding benefit, provider of preferred consequential result (block **1334**).

Additional possible process aspects may include responsive to receiving the notification from the vehicle, providing conformity status information accessible to a user via a communication device in the vehicle (block **1336**). A further aspect may include responsive to receiving the notification from the vehicle, providing conformity status information accessible via a communication link to one or more of the following: an operator or driver or passenger or owner or lessor or lessee or fleet owner or fleet manager of the vehicle (block **1337**).

The detailed flow chart of FIG. **31** depicts various exemplary embodiment features **1340** including previously described aspects **1312**, **1313**, **1314**, **1317**, **1318** as well as a possible feature that includes responsive to receiving the notification from the vehicle, providing, providing conformity status information accessible to a user regarding a compliance

state that includes one or more of the following types of qualification requirements: number of passengers, HOV lane account status, toll road account status, public road standard, public area standard, private road standard, private area standard, electric power mode, combustion/electric hybrid mode, combustion fuel content, bio-fuel content, natural gas fuel, engine efficiency, miles/per/gallon calibration, combustion emission, zero-emissions, exhaust content, maximum speed limitation, safety metric, environment guideline (block **1348**).

Some exemplary process embodiments may further provide a remote data record including pertinent information regarding one or more applicable compliance states and/or their respective corresponding benefit, wherein the pertinent information is accessible to a user at an appropriate time (block **1341**). Such accessibility may, for example, be available prior to implementation of at least one selected optional vehicle operation mode (block **1342**), and in some instances prior to making a choice of a type of vehicle to travel via the particular route or area subject to the given administrative standard (block **1343**), or in a further instance prior to the vehicle proceeding along the particular route or area subject to the given administrative standard (block **1344**), or in yet another instance prior to the vehicle proceeding during a temporal travel period subject to the given administrative standard (block **1346**).

The detailed flow chart of FIG. **32** illustrates various exemplary process features **1350** that include previously described aspects **1312**, **1313**, **1314**, **1316**, **1317**, **1318** in combination with providing user-accessible compliance data regarding one or more applicable compliance states and/or their respective corresponding benefit, wherein the user-accessible compliance data is indicated on a communication device accessible to an operator or driver or passenger or owner or lessor or lessee or fleet owner or fleet manager of the vehicle (block **1351**). Another possible process feature may include providing user-accessible comparative information regarding the deviated conformity status as compared with an award or value or advantage included as part of the consequential result (block **1352**).

Additional exemplary process features may include maintaining an external data record that includes preferred consequential result information accessible to a user via a communication device in the vehicle (block **1357**). Additional exemplary features may include maintaining an external data record that includes preferred consequential result information indicative of one or more destinations associated with a particular preferred consequential result (block **1358**); and may in some instances include maintaining an external data record that includes preferred consequential result information indicative of one or more varied alternative routes or areas associated with a particular preferred consequential result (block **1359**).

Referring to the detailed flow chart of FIG. **33**, exemplary embodiment features **1360** may include previously described aspects **1312**, **1313**, **1314**, **1316**, **1317** as well as providing an external data record that is indicative of one or more possible consequential results available to a qualified recipient (block **1365**). In some instances a process aspect may include maintaining an external data record for consequential result information accessible to a user prior to the implementation of the selected optional vehicle operational mode (block **1364**).

Other possible process aspects may include maintaining the external data record that includes information regarding two or more preferred consequential results which are respectively based on implementation of different optional vehicle operational modes (block **1361**); and possibly maintaining

the external data record that includes consequential result information accessible via a communication device prior to a user's choice of a type of vehicle to travel via the particular route or area subject to the given administrative standard (block 1362).

Another possible process feature may include maintaining an external data record located separate from the vehicle, which external data record includes consequential result information accessible to a user prior to the vehicle proceeding along the particular route or area or proceeding during a temporal travel period, subject to the given administrative standard (block 1363). Some process embodiments may include, for example, maintaining the external record that delineates a qualified recipient of an available award or value or advantage included as part of the possible consequential results (block 1366). A further exemplary process feature may include maintaining the external data record that includes a description of an available award or value or advantage included as part of the possible consequential results (block 1367).

Additional exemplary embodiment features 1370 shown in FIG. 34 include previously described aspects 1312, 1313, 1314, 1316 in combination with maintaining an external data record located separate from the vehicle, which external data record includes consequential result information accessible via a communication link to confirm availability of the preferred consequential result to one or more of the following types of parties: vehicle, operator, driver, passenger, vehicle owner, vehicle lessor, vehicle lessee, vehicle fleet owner, vehicle fleet manager, government agency, entity providing the consequential result, entity providing the corresponding benefit (block 1371).

Other process features may include presenting confirmation of an actual award or value or advantage via a communication device in the vehicle or via a communication device located remotely from the vehicle or via a mobile communication device (block 1372). A further possible process feature may include presenting confirmation of an actual award or value or advantage that is dependent upon arrival of the vehicle at a specified destination (block 1373).

Further exemplary aspects may include presenting confirmation of the actual award or value or advantage available to the qualified recipient at one or more of the following types of specified destinations: primary destination, secondary destination, alternate destination, intermediate destination (block 1374). In some instances a process embodiment may include maintaining the external data record that confirms availability of the preferred consequential result at one or more of the following types of specified destinations: battery recharge station, battery renewal facility, high-voltage recharge station, low-voltage recharge station, battery replacement station, priority battery service, fuel supply station, diesel combustion fuel station, gasoline combustion fuel station, natural gas fuel station, bio-fuel station, priority fuel service (block 1376).

Yet another exemplary process feature may include maintaining the external data record that confirms availability of the preferred consequential at one or more of the following types of specified destinations: parking facility, overnight accommodation, residence, office facility, vehicle repair station, vehicle accessory store, Internet access location, public transit station, private transit site, rented-vehicle return site, vehicle inspection location, jurisdictional border, licensing authority, tax assessment site, monitoring unit, detection lane (block 1377).

Referring to the exemplary embodiments 1380 depicted in FIG. 35, possible aspects may include previously described

process features 1312, 1314, 1316, 1317, 1318 along with other aspects including presenting user-access to one or more applicable compliance states and/or their respective corresponding benefits based on a temporal travel period subject to the given administrative standard (block 1381). Related possible process aspects may include providing user-accessible information regarding the preferred consequential result that includes an award or value or advantage different from the corresponding benefit available during the temporal travel period subject to the given administrative standard (block 1382). A further possible process aspect may include providing a remote data record including user-accessible information regarding one or more possible temporal travel periods having different respective compliance states and/or different respective accrued benefits (block 1383).

Some exemplary embodiments may include receiving at a remote data record the notification that confirms the implementation of the at least one selected optional vehicle operational modes which prevents the vehicle from qualifying with the respective compliance state applicable during the temporal travel period subject to the administrative standard (block 1384). Other possible process aspects may include responsive to receiving the notification from the vehicle, providing a remote data record including user-accessible information that confirms forfeiture of all or part of the corresponding benefit arising from the deviated conformity status for the vehicle, wherein the deviated conformity status does not prevent attainment of the preferred consequential result (block 1386). A further exemplary aspect may include responsive to receiving the notification from the vehicle, providing a remote data record including user-accessible information indicating a cost or penalty or other detriment arising from the deviated conformity status caused by the selected optional vehicle operational mode (block 1387).

The detailed flow chart of FIG. 36 illustrates exemplary embodiment features 1390 that include previously described process aspects 1312, 1314, 1316, 1317, 1381 along with providing a remote data record including user-accessible information for the given administrative standard that defines the compliance state applicable to the vehicle during one or more of the following types of travel periods: seasonal, storm occurrence, weather warning, weather situation, smog alert, time-of-day, night-time, commuter hours, imminent event, ongoing event, traffic congestion, road closure, dangerous road condition, road construction, road repair, travel accident (block 1391).

In some instances a further exemplary process feature may include providing a remote data record including user-accessible information for the given administrative standard that defines the predetermined vehicle operation mode of the vehicle during a travel period that includes a designated high-traffic time period or a designated air quality time period or a designated natural phenomenon time period (block 1392). Another possible process aspect may include receiving at a remote data record the notification that confirms the implementation of at least one selected optional vehicle operation mode that causes an over-ride or cancellation of a default vehicle operational mode during travel on the particular route or area and/or during a temporal travel period, which is subject to the given administrative standard (block 1393).

An additional exemplary embodiment feature may include responsive to receiving the notification from the vehicle, providing confirmation on a remote data record that indicates the selected optional vehicle operational mode also enables conformity with one or more possible compliance states relative to the given administrative standard (block 1394).

Referring to FIG. 37, various exemplary process aspects **1400** are illustrated including previously described aspects **1312, 1313, 1314, 1316, 1317** in combination with providing user-accessible information regarding the maintenance of a preferable vehicle paradigm that is included as part of the preferred consequential result (block **1401**). Other possible aspects may include providing user-accessible comparative information regarding the deviated conformity status as compared with the preferable vehicle paradigm included as part of the consequential result (block **1402**). Additional process features may include receiving the notification from the vehicle that confirms implementation of one or more configurable vehicle operating parameters in a manner to maintain the preferable vehicle paradigm during all or a portion of travel via the particular route or area and/or during all or portion of a temporal travel period subject to the given administrative standard (block **1403**).

In some instances a further process feature may include providing a remote data record including user-accessible information indicating a cost or penalty or other detriment due to the deviated conformity status arising from implementation of the one or more configurable vehicle operating parameters (block **1406**). Additional exemplary aspects may include providing a remote data record including user-accessible information that confirms forfeiture of all or part of the accrued benefit due to the deviated conformity status that occurs in connection with maintaining the preferable vehicle paradigm, wherein the deviated conformity status caused by the preferable vehicle paradigm does not prevent attainment of the preferred consequential result (block **1407**).

Referring to the exemplary embodiments **1410** of FIG. 38, possible aspects may include previously described process features **1312, 1313, 1314, 1316, 1317, 1401, 1403** in combination with obtaining confirmation of one or more types of preferable vehicle paradigms maintained in the vehicle (block **1411**). Examples of such preferable vehicle paradigms sufficient to attain the correlated consequential result may include battery charging/discharging paradigm **1412**, exhaust paradigm for fuel emissions **1413**, and fuel composition paradigm for combustion engine **1414**.

Additional examples may include vehicle power paradigm in electric/combustion hybrid vehicle **1416**, electric power paradigm for hybrid engine **1417**, and combustion power paradigm for hybrid engine **1418**. Further possible examples may include calibrated temperature paradigm for vehicle component **1421**, vehicle safety factor paradigm **1422**, environmental benchmark paradigm **1423**, multiple passenger threshold paradigm **1424**, and engine efficiency paradigm based on miles-per-gallon calibration **1426**.

Of course other types of preferable vehicle paradigms sufficient to attain the preferred consequential result may be provided depending on the circumstances. It will be understood that the examples depicted herein are only for purposes of illustration and are not intended to be limiting.

The detailed flow chart of FIG. 39 depicts other possible process features **1430** that may include previously described aspects **1312, 1313, 1314, 1316, 1317, 1401, 1403** along with confirming implementation of the one or more configurable vehicle operating parameters to attain the preferable vehicle paradigm included as part of the preferred consequential result, wherein at least one of the implemented configurable vehicle operating parameters also enables conformity with one or more possible compliance states relative to the given administrative standard (block **1431**). Another possible process aspect may include obtaining confirmation of one or more of the following types of configurable vehicle operating parameters to maintain the preferable vehicle paradigm:

number of passengers, battery-powered mode, combustion-powered mode, bio-fuel mode, bio-fuel blend mode, natural gas mode, electric power mode, low emission mode, calibrated miles/per/gallon mode, battery-charge mode, battery-discharge mode, low-temperature engine mode, electric/combustion hybrid mode, solely electric power mode, primarily electric power mode, solely fuel combustion mode, primarily fuel combustion mode, safety certification mode, environmental certification mode, emission content, zero emissions, approved catalytic converter, speed-limiter activated, turned-on headlights (block **1432**).

Referring to FIG. 40, the detailed flow chart shows various exemplary embodiment features **1440**, including previously described aspects **1312, 1313, 1314, 1316, 1317, 1401, 1403** in combination with confirming implementation of the one or more configurable vehicle operating parameters which prevent the vehicle from qualifying for the respective compliance state applicable to the particular travel route or travel area or temporal travel period (block **1441**).

Additional process features may include obtaining confirmation of one or more of the following types of preferable vehicle paradigms maintained in the vehicle: controlled velocity paradigm based on a maximum speed or minimum speed or speed range, vehicle velocity paradigm to achieve a proposed targeted arrival time at a chosen destination (block **1442**). In some instances a further aspect may include obtaining confirmation of one or more of the following types of preferable vehicle paradigms maintained in the vehicle: vehicle power paradigm for achieving an appropriate vehicle acceleration or vehicle speed range based on current travel conditions on a particular route or in a particular area or during a temporal travel period subject to the given administrative standard (block **1443**).

FIG. 41 is a detailed flow chart depicting various exemplary process embodiment features **1445** including previously described process aspects **1312, 1313, 1314, 1316, 1317, 1318, 1401, 1403** along with confirming implementation of the configurable vehicle operating parameter sufficient to achieve the preferable vehicle paradigm and also to qualify for another correlated consequential result provided by a third party person or entity (block **1444**). Further possible process aspects may include obtaining confirmation of one or more various types of preferable vehicle paradigms maintained in the vehicle (block **1446**); and may further include maintaining an external record located separate from the vehicle, which external record includes status documentation indicating achievement of at least one preferable vehicle paradigm included as part of the preferred consequential result (block **1447**).

The detailed flow chart of FIG. 42 shows possible process features **1450** that may include previously describe aspects **1312, 1313, 1314, 1316, 1317** in combination with maintaining an external data record that includes one or more preferred consequential results different from the corresponding benefit available pursuant to the given administrative standard (block **1456**).

Another possible process feature may include maintaining the external data record that includes consequential result information regarding one or more of the following types of vehicle battery aspects: priority access to battery recharge station, priority battery servicing, reduced cost for battery recharge, free battery renewal service, customized battery recharge, discounted cost for battery replacement, special warranty on new battery purchase, higher quality battery purchase at standard price (block **1451**).

Additional exemplary features may include maintaining the external data record that includes consequential result

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information regarding one or more of the following types of award or value or advantage included as part of the preferred consequential result: reduced vehicle registration fees, reduced fuel price, priority fuel purchase, preferred parking location, reduced parking fee, tax credit, traffic lane usage, bridge usage, reduced toll rate, financial rebate, store discount, product discount, membership offer (block 1452).

In some instances a further process aspect may include maintaining the external data record that includes consequential result information regarding an award or value or advantage that is available upon arrival at one or more of the following types of destination: parking lot, road exit, traffic lane entry, traffic lane exit, bridge entry, bridge exit, retail store, service store, event location, event ticket office, transit station (block 1453).

The detailed flow chart of FIG. 43 illustrates possible embodiment features 1460 that may include previously described aspects 1312, 1313, 1314, 1316 as well as maintaining an external data record located separate from the vehicle, which external data record includes certification of an actual award or value or advantage included as part of the preferred consequential result that is different from the corresponding benefit available pursuant to the given administrative standard (block 1461). Further process aspects may include maintaining the external record that includes certification provided by or on behalf of a person or entity associated with the preferred consequential result (block 1462); and in some instances maintaining the external record that includes certification of the actual award or value or advantage for one or more of the following type of qualified recipients: vehicle, operator, driver, passenger, owner, lessor, lessee, fleet manager (block 1463). Yet another possible aspect may include maintaining the external record that includes certification of the actual award or value or advantage available to a qualified recipient upon arrival at a specified destination (block 1464).

Some process embodiments may include maintaining the external record that includes certification of the actual award or value or advantage provided by or on behalf of one or more of the following: vehicle manufacturer, vehicle sales entity, governmental entity, environmental entity, insurance company, insurance sales agent, fuel manufacturer, fuel sales entity, vehicle engine/component manufacturer, vehicle engine/component sales entity, "green" product company, "green" services company, "green" rebate entity (block 1466).

A further possible process aspect may include responsive to receiving the notification from the vehicle, providing confirmation on a remote data record indicating the selected optional vehicle operational mode also enables conformity with one or more possible compliance states relative to the given administrative standard (block 1468).

The detailed flow chart of FIG. 44 depicts exemplary process features 1470 that include previously described aspects 1312, 1313, 1314, 1316, 1317, 1318 in combination with maintaining user-accessible compliance data regarding the deviated conformity status that provides a particular benefit of different value or lesser value as compared to the corresponding benefit (block 1471). In some instances a possible process feature may include obtaining confirmation that the implemented vehicle operational mode also enables conformity with a compliance state of the given administrative standard (block 1472).

In some circumstances an exemplary process embodiment may additionally include posting to an electronic record a certification of an actual award or value or advantage available to a qualified recipient as part of the attained consequen-

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tial result (block 1473). In some embodiments another possible process aspect may include posting the certification to an account record or electronic card associated with one or more of the following type of parties: vehicle, operator, driver, passenger, owner, lessor, lessee, vehicle fleet owner, vehicle fleet manager, tax agency, government agency, vehicle insurer, entity providing consequential result, entity providing corresponding benefit, authorized family member (block 1474).

Other exemplary process features depicted in FIG. 44 include providing user-accessible information regarding the preferred consequential result that is based on a previously attained award or value or advantage (block 1476). In some instances a possible process feature may include providing user-accessible information for the preferred consequential result that is based on a cumulative record of performance regarding one or more specified vehicle operational modes (block 1477).

FIG. 45 illustrates various process embodiment features 1480 that include previously described elements 1312, 1313, 1314, 1316, 1317, 1318, 1456 along with responsive to receiving the notification from the vehicle, obtaining the deviated conformity status from a compliance module located remotely from the vehicle (block 1481). Other possible process features may include providing a first data record located remotely from the vehicle for maintaining user-accessible conformity status data (block 1482), and in some instances providing a second data record located separate from the vehicle for maintaining user-accessible consequential result data (block 1484).

Some exemplary process features may include based on the implemented vehicle operational mode, obtaining from a certification module located separate from the vehicle a certification of an actual award or value or advantage included as part of an attained consequential result (block 1486). Another possible aspect may include posting to an electronic record a certification that includes a description of an actual award or value or advantage included as part of the attained consequential result (block 1487). A further possible feature may include posting to an electronic record a certification that delineates a qualified recipient of an actual award or value or advantage included as part of an attained consequential result (block 1488).

The diagrammatic flow chart of FIG. 46 illustrates exemplary features of a computer program product (1490) that includes computer readable media having encoded instructions for executing a method for detection and processing of vehicle operational mode data (block 1491). Exemplary method features executable by computerized apparatus may include establishing an identity for a vehicle traveling via a particular route or area that is subject to a given administrative standard (block 1492); presenting user-access to varied compliance states and their corresponding benefits pursuant to the given administrative standard, which corresponding benefits accrue to a qualified recipient based on a detected conformity status of the vehicle when traveling via the particular route or area (block 1493); and providing user-accessible information that indicates a correlation between a preferred consequential result and one or more possible vehicle operational modes (block 1494).

Additional possible method features incorporated as instructions on the computer readable media may include receiving a notification directly or indirectly from the vehicle that confirms an implementation during an applicable period of at least one selected optional vehicle operational mode sufficient to attain the preferred consequential result (block 1496). A further aspect may include instructions for deter-

mining pursuant to the given administrative standard a deviation of the conformity status caused by the selected optional vehicle operational mode (block 1497).

The schematic block diagram of FIG. 47 illustrates an exemplary system for managing and processing vehicle operation mode data. Such an exemplary system may include a computerized processing unit 1500 with processor 1502, controller 1503, memory 1504 and one or more applications 1506. Access to such an exemplary system may be provided through a user interface 1543 with a communication module 1540.

Various possible communication links with computerized processing unit 1550 may include a link with administrative standard data records 1510, another link with compliance module for administrative standard 1515, still another link with one or more vehicle detection and monitoring devices 1520, a further link with consequential result data records 1530, yet a further link with certification module for one or more consequential results 1535, and an additional link with communication module 1540.

Administrative standard data records 1510 may include informational data regarding one or more compliance states 1512 as well as their corresponding benefits 1513. Consequential result data records may include informational data regarding a preferable operating paradigm 1533 for a vehicle, as well as a correlated award or value or advantage 1532 that may be available to a qualified recipient. Of course other types of information may be maintained to facilitate the management and processing of vehicle mode data, including additional information regarding the vehicle conformity status pursuant to the administrative standard as well as additional information regarding qualification for a preferred consequential result based on a correlated vehicle mode.

Depending on the circumstances, the various components 1510, 1515, 1520, 1530, 1535, 1540 may be located on a vehicle traveling via a route or area subject to an administrative standard and/or located externally (e.g., remotely) from the vehicle. In some instances such components may be located at a facility associated with providing the preferred consequential result, and/or located at a monitoring facility associated with supervision of the administrative standard. Other locations are possible, and various types of communication links may be provided including but not limited to wireless, cable, satellite, Internet, public networks, private networks, and the like.

It will be understood from the various embodiment features disclosed herein that certain exemplary data processing functions involving components 1510, 1515, 1520, 1530, 1535, 1540 may be carried out at a central location by computerized processing unit 1500, and other specified exemplary processing functions may be carried out by separate computerized processing modules. For example, compliance module for administrative standard 1515 may also include or be operatively coupled with computerized processing module 1551; administrative standard data records 1510 may also include or be operatively coupled with computerized processing module 1552; certification module for consequential results 1535 may also include or be operatively coupled with computerized processing module 1553; consequential result data records 1530 may also include or be operatively coupled with computerized processing module 1554; vehicle detection and monitoring devices 1520 may also include or be operatively coupled with computerized processing module 1556; and communication module 1540 may also include or be operatively coupled with computerized processing module 1557.

In accordance with the disclosures herein, an exemplary vehicle system embodiment for varied operational modes

may include a communication unit operably coupled to a first data record listing one or more available compliance states for a vehicle traveling via a particular route or area that is subject to a given administrative standard, wherein the one or more compliance states correspond to respective benefits available to a qualified recipient. Related system features may further include a second data record operably coupled to the communication unit and configured to maintain information regarding a preferred consequential result that correlates with one or more optional vehicle operational modes.

Another related system feature may include a user interface linked to the communication unit to provide access to information regarding a benefit corresponding to vehicle compliance state as compared to a preferred consequential result based on a selected vehicle operational mode detected by one or more vehicle monitoring devices configured to transmit updated vehicle operational mode data to the communication unit. Additional possible user interface features may include one or more of the following type of elements: keyboard, voice receiver, audio speaker, mouse, touch screen, scanner, printer, data status display, messaging display, GPS travel map.

A further exemplary system component may include a compliance module having a communication link to the first data record and to the communication unit, wherein the compliance module is configured to process updated vehicle operational mode data to establish a conformity status based on a vehicle compliance state pursuant to the given administrative standard. Another possible system component may include a certification module having a communication link to the first data record and to the communication unit, wherein the compliance module is configured to process updated vehicle operational mode data to establish qualification for a preferred consequential result available to a qualified recipient associated with the vehicle.

Further exemplary system aspects disclosed herein may provide for promotional correlation with selective vehicle modes, wherein possible system components may include a vehicle identifier record for an identified vehicle traveling via a particular route or area that is subject to a given administrative standard that includes a first data record indicative of one or more compliance states corresponding to respective benefits available to a qualified recipient, and a second data record listing one or more preferred promotional results that correlate with one or more optional vehicle operational modes. A further possible component may include a computerized processing unit operably coupled to the second data record and having a link to one or more monitoring or detection devices on the vehicle, wherein the computerized processing unit is configured to determine qualification for the one or more preferred promotional results based on a selected vehicle operational mode detected during an applicable travel period by the one or more vehicle monitoring or detection devices.

In some instances the computerized processing unit is configured to receive updated vehicle operational mode data from the one or more monitoring or detection devices on the vehicle, and may also be configured to transmit to a vehicle communication unit updated conformity status information based on a vehicle compliance state pursuant to the given administrative standard. A further system component may include a certification module having a communication link to the second data record and to a vehicle communication unit, wherein the certification module is configured to process updated vehicle operational mode data to establish qualification for a preferred promotional result available to a qualified recipient associated with the vehicle.

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It will be understood that the technical capabilities for detecting and/or monitoring vehicle operation modes may include on-board vehicle components as well as external components, and the examples disclosed herein are for purposes of illustration and are not intended to be limiting. Similarly, the technical capabilities for obtaining vehicle identification data as well as identity data for qualified recipients of a preferred promotional result may include on-board vehicle components as well as external components (e.g., scanner units adjacent a travel route or travel area), and the examples disclosed herein are for purposes of illustration and are not intended to be limiting.

The high level flow chart of FIG. 48 illustrates exemplary process features **1600** that may provide a method for promotional correlation with selective vehicle modes (block **1602**), wherein possible method features may include identifying a compliance state relative to a given administrative standard defining one or more predetermined vehicle operation modes of a vehicle traveling via a particular route or area, the compliance state corresponding to a first benefit that accrues based on conformity with the given administrative standard (block **1603**); and establishing a preferred promotional result that is different from the first benefit, which preferred promotional result correlates with at least one type of vehicle operation mode implemented during an applicable travel period via the particular route or area subject to the given administrative standard (block **1604**).

Additional possible process features may include providing user-accessible information regarding the preferred promotional result (block **1606**), and receiving a notification confirming a conformity status of the vehicle based on the implemented vehicle operation mode that is sufficient to qualify for the preferred promotional result (block **1607**). In some instances further features may include providing preferred promotional result information that indicates the correlation between the preferred promotional result and the at least one type of vehicle operation mode (block **1605**), and correlating the preferred promotional result with the at least one type of vehicle operation mode implemented during all or a portion of the applicable travel period (block **1615**).

Other possible aspects may include features responsive to the notification confirming the conformity status of the vehicle, including making the preferred promotional result available to a qualified recipient associated with the vehicle (block **1608**), and authorizing the preferred promotional result to be available to a qualified recipient associated with the vehicle (block **1609**).

Additional exemplary embodiment features **1610** depicted in the flow chart of FIG. 29 include previously described aspects **1603**, **1604**, **1606**, **1607**, **1609** along with receiving directly or indirectly from the vehicle the notification that indicates the implemented vehicle operation mode (block **1611**). Further possible aspects may include receiving directly or indirectly from a communication device in the vehicle the notification that indicates the implemented vehicle operation mode (block **1612**), and receiving directly or indirectly from an authorized party associated with the administrative standard the notification that indicates the implemented vehicle operation mode (block **1613**).

Further possible aspects may include receiving directly or indirectly from one or more of the following parties the notification that includes the implemented vehicle operation mode: operator or driver or passenger or owner or lessor or lessee or fleet manager of the vehicle (block **1614**). Other exemplary aspects may include authorizing the preferred promotional result to be available based on the implemented vehicle operation mode that prevents full conformity with the

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given administrative standard by the vehicle (block **1617**). In some instances a possible feature may include confirming that a second accrued benefit corresponding to a different compliance state for the vehicle does not prevent attainment of the preferred promotional result (block **1616**).

The detailed flow chart of FIG. 50 illustrates further exemplary aspects **1620** that include previously described process features **1603**, **1604**, **1606** in combination with confirming that a deviated or modified conformity status caused by the implemented vehicle operation mode does not prevent attainment of the preferred promotional result (block **1621**). Additional possible process features may include establishing two or more preferred promotional results which are respectively based on detection of different implemented vehicle operation modes (block **1622**), and providing user-accessible information regarding the preferred promotional result that is correlated with the type of vehicle operation mode implemented during travel via one or more possible travel routes or areas having different respective compliance states and/or different respective accrued benefits pursuant to their respective administrative standards (block **1623**).

Other illustrated aspects may include providing preferred promotional result information that is indicated on a communication device accessible in the vehicle or accessible remotely from the vehicle or accessible on a mobile communication device (block **1624**), and in some instances may include providing preferred promotional result information that is indicated on a communication device accessible to an operator or driver or passenger or owner or lessor or lessee or fleet manager of the vehicle (block **1626**).

Further possible process features may include providing preferred promotional result information that is accessible prior to a user-selected implementation of one or more optional vehicle operational modes (block **1627**), and providing promotional result information that is accessible prior to a user-selected choice of a type of vehicle to travel via the particular route or area subject to the given administrative standard (block **1628**).

The detailed flow chart of FIG. 51 shows exemplary aspects **1630** that include previously described features **1603**, **1604**, **1606**, **1607**, **1609** as well as providing promotional result information that is accessible prior to the vehicle proceeding along the particular route or area subject to the given administrative standard (block **1631**). Other aspects may include making the preferred promotional result available based on a qualification with two or more implemented vehicle operation modes during travel via the particular route or area (block **1632**). Further possible aspects may include authorizing the preferred promotional result to be available based on a vehicle exemption from the predetermined vehicle operation mode, which exemption pursuant to the given administrative standard requires additional payment or other consideration to qualify for the exemption (block **1633**).

FIG. 51 also illustrates exemplary aspects that may include identifying the compliance state that includes one or more of the following types of qualification requirements: number of passengers, HOV lane account status, toll road account status, public road standard, public area standard, private road standard, private area standard, electric power mode, combustion/electric hybrid mode, combustion fuel content, bio-fuel content, natural gas fuel, engine efficiency, miles/per/gallon calibration, combustion emission, zero-emissions, exhaust content, maximum speed limitation, safety metric, environmental guideline (block **1634**).

Referring to the exemplary illustrated features **1640** of FIG. 52, possible aspects may include previously described process elements **1603**, **1604**, **1606**, **1607**, **1608** in combina-

tion with making an award or value or advantage available to a qualified recipient as part of the preferred promotional result (block 1648), and in some instances making an award or value or advantage available to one or more of the following type of qualified recipients based on the implemented vehicle operation mode: vehicle, operator, driver, passenger, vehicle owner, vehicle lessor, vehicle lessee, vehicle fleet owner, vehicle fleet manager (block 1649).

Additional process aspects may include receiving vehicle identifier data indicative of one or more identification characteristics for the vehicle traveling via the particular route or area (block 1641), and may further include receiving vehicle identifier data from a communication device located in the vehicle or external to the vehicle (block 1642). Other possibilities may include receiving vehicle identifier data from a communication device associated with the vehicle (block 1643), and in some instances may include receiving vehicle identifier data from a communication device associated with one or more of the following: operator or driver or passenger or owner or lessor or lessee or fleet manager of the vehicle (block 1644).

Further exemplary aspects may include receiving identifier data indicative of one or more identification characteristics for a qualified recipient of the preferred promotional result (block 1646), and well as receiving identification characteristics for one or more of the following type of qualified recipients: operator or driver or passenger or owner or lessor or lessee or fleet manager of the vehicle (block 1647).

The detailed flow chart of FIG. 53 depicts various exemplary process features 1650 that include previously described aspects 1603, 1604 as well as identifying one or more applicable compliance states and/or their respective accrued benefit based on a temporal period of travel subject to the given administrative standard (block 1651). Other related aspects may include correlating the preferred promotional result with the at least one predetermined vehicle operation mode that is implemented during the temporal period of travel having different respective compliance states and/or different corresponding accrued benefits (block 1652). Further possibilities may include making the preferred promotional result available to a qualified recipient based on the implemented vehicle operational mode that prevents the vehicle from qualifying with the compliance state applicable during the temporal period of travel subject to the administrative standard (block 1653).

Further possible process features illustrated in FIG. 53 include making the preferred promotional result available to a qualified recipient based on the implemented vehicle operational mode that causes forfeiting all or part of the corresponding benefit, wherein the modified conformity status of the vehicle does not prevent attainment of the preferred promotional result (block 1654). Other exemplary features may include identifying the compliance state for the given administrative standard that defines the one or more predetermined vehicle operation modes of the vehicle traveling during one or more of the following types of temporal periods: seasonal, storm occurrence, weather warning, weather situation, smog alert, time-of-day, night-time, commuter hours, imminent event, ongoing event, traffic congestion, road closure, dangerous road condition, road construction, road repair, travel accident (block 1656).

Additional aspects may include identifying the compliance state for the given administrative standard that defines the predetermined vehicle operation mode of the vehicle traveling during the temporal time period that includes a designated

high-traffic time period or a designated air quality time period or a designated natural phenomenon time period (block 1657).

FIG. 54 illustrates various exemplary aspects 1660 including previously described features 1603, 1604, 1606, 1607, 1608 as well as correlating the preferred promotional result with the at least one predetermined vehicle operation mode implemented during travel via alternative routes or areas that are respectively subject to an applicable given administrative standard (block 1661).

Additional possibilities may include making one or more preferred promotional results respectively available upon arrival at one or more of the following types of specified destinations: primary destination, secondary destination, alternate destination, intermediate destination (block 1666). Another exemplary aspect may include making the preferred promotional result available at one or more of the following types of specified destination: battery recharge station, battery renewal facility, high-voltage recharge station, low-voltage recharge station, battery replacement station, priority battery service, fuel supply station, diesel combustion fuel station, gasoline combustion fuel station, natural gas fuel station, bio-fuel station, priority fuel service (block 1667).

In some instances other possible process features may include making the preferred promotional result available at one or more of the following types of specified destination: parking facility, overnight accommodation, residence, office facility, vehicle repair station, vehicle accessory store, Internet access location, public transit station, private transit site, rented-vehicle return site, vehicle inspection location, jurisdictional border, licensing authority, tax assessment site, monitoring unit, detection lane (block 1668).

Referring to the detailed embodiment features 1670 illustrated in FIG. 55, possible process aspects may include previously described elements 1603, 1604, 1606, 1607 in combination with establishing the preferred promotional result correlated with one or more implemented configurable vehicle operating parameters that achieve a preferable vehicle paradigm during all or a portion of travel via the particular route or area and/or during all or a portion of a temporal travel period, subject to the given administrative standard (block 1671). Additional possible aspects may include receiving the notification that includes confirmation of the one or more configurable vehicle operating parameters that maintain the preferable vehicle paradigm (block 1672), and in some instances may further include receiving the notification directly or indirectly from a communication device and/or monitoring device and/or detection device in the vehicle (block 1673).

Some embodiment features may include receiving confirmation of one or more of the following types of configurable vehicle operation parameters implemented in the vehicle: number of passengers, battery-powered mode, combustion-powered mode, bio-fuel mode, bio-fuel blend mode, natural gas mode, electric power mode, low emission mode, calibrated miles/per/gallon mode, battery-charge mode, battery-discharge mode, low-temperature engine mode, electric/combustion hybrid mode, solely electric power mode, primarily electric power mode, solely fuel combustion mode, primarily fuel combustion mode, safety certification mode, environmental certification mode, emission content, zero emissions, approved catalytic converter, speed-limiter activated, turned-on headlights (block 1674).

FIG. 56 shows various possible features 1680 that may include previously described aspects 1603, 1604, 1671 in combination with correlating the preferred promotional result with at least one preferable vehicle paradigm implemented in

the vehicle (block 1681). Also depicted are examples of one or more types of correlated preferable vehicle paradigms (block 1685), including a safety factor paradigm 1682, environmental benchmark paradigm 1683, battery charging/discharging paradigm 1686, exhaust paradigm for fuel emissions 1687, fuel composition paradigm 1688, and multiple passenger threshold paradigm 1689.

Other exemplary types of correlated preferable vehicle paradigms may include an electrical or combustion power paradigm in hybrid vehicle 1691, calibrated temperature paradigm for vehicle component 1692, limited velocity paradigm 1693, velocity paradigm that may include maximum or minimum or speed ranges paradigms 1694. Further possible correlated preferable vehicle paradigms may include a velocity paradigm for targeted destination arrival time 1696, and a miles-per-gallon energy efficiency paradigm for combustion engine 1698.

Referring to the detailed flow chart of FIG. 57, various exemplary aspects 1700 may include previously described aspects 1603, 1604, 1606, 1607, 1608 along with establishing the preferred promotional result that correlates with the implemented vehicle operation mode to cause an over-ride or cancellation of a default vehicle operational mode during travel on the particular route or area and/or during travel during a temporal period, which is subject to the given administrative standard (block 1701).

Additional process features may include making one or more of the following type of award or value or advantage available as part of the preferred promotional result: priority access to battery recharge station, priority battery servicing, reduced cost for battery recharge, free battery renewal service, customized battery recharge, discounted cost for battery replacement, special warranty on new battery purchase, higher quality battery purchase at standard price (block 1706).

Another possible process feature may include making one or more of the following type of award or value or advantage available as part of the preferred promotional result: reduced vehicle registration fees, reduced fuel price, priority fuel purchase, preferred parking location, reduced parking fee, tax credit, traffic lane usage, bridge usage, reduced toll rate, financial rebate, store discount, product discount, membership offer (block 1707). In some instances a further aspect may include making an award or value or advantage available upon arrival at one or more of the following types of destination: parking lot, road exit, traffic lane entry, traffic lane exit, bridge entry, bridge exit, retail store, service store, event location, event ticket office, transit station (block 1708).

FIG. 58 illustrates further possible process aspects 1710 that may include previously described aspects 1603, 1604, 1607 along with presenting a certification of an actual award or value or advantage included as part of the preferred promotional result (block 1712), and in some instances presenting to a qualified recipient the certification provided by or on behalf of a person or entity associated with the preferred promotional result (block 1712).

Additional related aspects may include encoding the certification on an electronic record associated with the vehicle (block 1713), and may further include encoding the certification on an electronic record associated with an operator or driver or passenger or owner or lessor or lessee or fleet manager of the vehicle (block 1714), and in some instances may include posting the certification to an account record or an electronic card associated with the vehicle (block 1716). Further possible process features may include posting the certification to an account record or an electronic card associated

with an operator or driver or passenger or owner or lessor or lessee or fleet manager of the vehicle (block 1717).

Also illustrated in FIG. 58 are possible aspects that may include presenting to a qualified recipient the certification of the actual award or value or advantage provided by or on behalf of one or more of the following: vehicle manufacturer, vehicle sales entity, governmental entity, environmental entity, insurance company, insurance sales agent, fuel manufacturer, fuel sales entity, vehicle engine/component manufacturer, vehicle engine/component product company, "green" services company, "green" rebate entity (block 1719).

The detailed flow chart of FIG. 59 illustrates various exemplary process aspects 1720 including previously described elements 1603, 1604, 1607, 1711 along with presenting the certification to a qualified recipient upon arrival at a specified destination associated with the preferred promotional result (block 1712), and in some instances presenting the certification to one or more of the following type of qualified recipients upon arrival at the specified destination associated with the preferred promotional result: operator, driver, passenger, vehicle owner, vehicle lessor, vehicle lessee, vehicle fleet owner, vehicle fleet manager (block 1713).

Further exemplary process features may include presenting the certification that delineates an identification of the qualified recipient of the actual award or value or advantage (block 1714). Another aspect may include presenting the certification that includes a description of the actual award or value or advantage (block 1716).

Referring to FIG. 60, various possible process aspects 1730 may include previously described features 1603, 1604, 1606, 1607 in combination with providing preferred promotional result information that indicates the correlation between the preferred promotional result and a specified time period for implementing the vehicle operation mode (block 1732). Other exemplary aspects may include providing notice of the implemented vehicle operation mode to an entity associated with giving an award or value or advantage to a qualified recipient (block 1736).

Further possible process features may include receiving the notification indicating a partial achievement of a required implementation of the vehicle operation mode during the applicable travel period (block 1733). A related possible feature may include authorizing a reduced or lesser preferred promotional result based on the partial achievement of the required implementation of the vehicle operation mode (block 1734).

Some additional aspects may in some instances include making a data record of an actual award or value or advantage that is included as part of the preferred promotional result obtained by a qualified recipient (block 1737). Other exemplary aspects may include providing preferred promotional result information regarding one or more of the following types of qualification criteria: redemption expiration, non-transferability, geographic redemption boundaries, cumulative vehicle performance, previous promotional result status, value limitation, multiple/duplicate award disqualification (block 1738).

It will be understood that data records and user-accessible information regarding preferred promotional results, as well relating to an award or value or advantage included as part of such preferred promotional results, may be maintained at various locations relative to an identified vehicle traveling during an applicable travel period and/or traveling via an applicable route or area. Similarly access to such records and information may be provided via communication devices and user-interfaces at various locations, depending on the circum-

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stances. Accordingly the exemplary embodiment features disclosed herein are for purposes of illustration and are not intended to be limiting.

The diagrammatic illustration of FIG. 61 depicts exemplary features 1750 incorporated in an article of manufacture which provides computer-readable media having encoded instructions for executing a method for promotional correlation with selective vehicle modes (block 1752). Possible aspects of an exemplary method may include identifying a compliance state relative to a given administrative standard defining one or more predetermined vehicle operation modes of a vehicle traveling via a particular route or area, the compliance state corresponding to a first benefit that accrues based on conformity with the given administrative standard (block 1753); and may further include establishing criteria for a preferred promotional result that correlates with at least one type of vehicle operation mode implemented during an applicable travel period via the particular route or area subject to the given administrative standard (block 1754).

Other possible exemplary process features may include providing user-accessible information regarding the preferred promotional result (block 1756), and in some instances processing a notification confirming a conformity status of the vehicle based on the implemented vehicle operation mode that is sufficient to qualify for the preferred promotional result (block 1757).

It will be understood by those skilled in the art that the various components and elements disclosed in the system and schematic diagrams herein as well as the various steps and sub-steps disclosed in the flow charts herein may be incorporated together in different claimed combinations in order to enhance possible benefits and advantages.

The exemplary system, apparatus, and computer program product embodiments disclosed herein including FIGS. 1-10, FIG. 25-27, FIGS. 46-47 and FIG. 61 along with other components, devices, know-how, skill and techniques known in the art have the capability of implementing and practicing the methods and processes depicted in FIGS. 11-24, FIGS. 28-45 and FIGS. 48-60. However it is to be further understood by those skilled in the art that other systems, apparatus and technology may be used to implement and practice such methods and processes.

It will also be understood from the technical disclosure herein that exemplary methods, systems and components enable selective control of an operational mode for a vehicle that is subject to an administrative standard. In some instances a qualified person or entity may attain a preferred consequential result related to a user-selected vehicle operation mode that may involve a vehicle operation paradigm and/or a vehicle travel route and/or a vehicle travel destination. In some embodiments, implementation of the selected vehicle operation mode may modify a conformity status of the vehicle relative to the administrative standard. Various accessible records may be maintained regarding administrative compliance states and their respective benefits, as well as regarding certification of preferable consequential results available to qualified recipients based on a correlated vehicle operational mode.

The foregoing detailed description has set forth various embodiments of the devices and/or processes via the use of block diagrams, flowcharts, and/or examples. Insofar as such block diagrams, flowcharts, and/or examples contain one or more functions and/or operations, it will be understood by those within the art that each function and/or operation within such block diagrams, flowcharts, or examples can be implemented, individually and/or collectively, by a wide range of hardware, software, firmware, or virtually any combination

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thereof. In one embodiment, several portions of the subject matter described herein may be implemented via Application Specific Integrated Circuits (ASICs), Field Programmable Gate Arrays (FPGAs), digital signal processors (DSPs), or other integrated formats. However, those skilled in the art will recognize that some aspects of the embodiments disclosed herein, in whole or in part, can be equivalently implemented in integrated circuits, as one or more computer programs running on one or more computers (e.g., as one or more programs running on one or more computer systems), as one or more programs running on one or more processors (e.g., as one or more programs running on one or more microprocessors), as firmware, or as virtually any combination thereof, and that designing the circuitry and/or writing the code for the software and/or firmware would be well within the skill of one of skill in the art in light of this disclosure. In addition, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the mechanisms of the subject matter described herein are capable of being distributed as a program product in a variety of forms, and that an illustrative embodiment of the subject matter described herein applies regardless of the particular type of signal bearing medium used to actually carry out the distribution. Examples of a signal bearing medium include, but are not limited to, the following: a recordable type medium such as a floppy disk, a hard disk drive, a Compact Disc (CD), a Digital Video Disk (DVD), a digital tape, a computer memory, etc.; and a transmission type medium such as a digital and/or an analog communication medium (e.g., a fiber optic cable, a waveguide, a wired communications link, a wireless communication link (e.g., transmitter, receiver, transmission logic, reception logic, etc.), etc.).

The herein described subject matter sometimes illustrates different components contained within, or connected with, different other components. It is to be understood that such depicted architectures are merely exemplary, and that in fact many other architectures may be implemented which achieve the same functionality. In a conceptual sense, any arrangement of components to achieve the same functionality is effectively "associated" such that the desired functionality is achieved. Hence, any two components herein combined to achieve a particular functionality can be seen as "associated with" each other such that the desired functionality is achieved, irrespective of architectures or intermedial components. Likewise, any two components so associated can also be viewed as being "operably connected", or "operably coupled," to each other to achieve the desired functionality, and any two components capable of being so associated can also be viewed as being "operably couplable," to each other to achieve the desired functionality. Specific examples of operably couplable include but are not limited to physically mateable and/or physically interacting components, and/or wirelessly interactable, and/or wirelessly interacting components, and/or logically interacting, and/or logically interactable components.

In some instances, one or more components may be referred to herein as "configured to," "configured by," "configurable to," "operable/operative to," "adapted/adaptable," "able to," "conformable/conformed to," etc. Those skilled in the art will recognize that such terms (e.g. "configured to") can generally encompass active-state components and/or inactive-state components and/or standby-state components, unless context requires otherwise.

While particular aspects of the present subject matter described herein have been shown and described, it will be apparent to those skilled in the art that, based upon the teachings herein, changes and modifications may be made without departing from the subject matter described herein and its

broader aspects and, therefore, the appended claims are to encompass within their scope all such changes and modifications as are within the true spirit and scope of the subject matter described herein. It will be understood by those within the art that, in general, terms used herein, and especially in the appended claims (e.g., bodies of the appended claims) are generally intended as “open” terms (e.g., the term “including” should be interpreted as “including but not limited to,” the term “having” should be interpreted as “having at least,” the term “includes” should be interpreted as “includes but is not limited to,” etc.). It will be further understood by those within the art that if a specific number of an introduced claim recitation is intended, such an intent will be explicitly recited in the claim, and in the absence of such recitation no such intent is present. For example, as an aid to understanding, the following appended claims may contain usage of the introductory phrases “at least one” and “one or more” to introduce claim recitations. However, the use of such phrases should not be construed to imply that the introduction of a claim recitation by the indefinite articles “a” or “an” limits any particular claim containing such introduced claim recitation to claims containing only one such recitation, even when the same claim includes the introductory phrases “one or more” or “at least one” and indefinite articles such as “a” or “an” (e.g., “a” and/or “an” should typically be interpreted to mean “at least one” or “one or more”); the same holds true for the use of definite articles used to introduce claim recitations. In addition, even if a specific number of an introduced claim recitation is explicitly recited, those skilled in the art will recognize that such recitation should typically be interpreted to mean at least the recited number (e.g., the bare recitation of “two recitations,” without other modifiers, typically means at least two recitations, or two or more recitations). Furthermore, in those instances where a convention analogous to “at least one of A, B, and C, etc.” is used, in general such a construction is intended in the sense one having skill in the art would understand the convention (e.g., “a system having at least one of A, B, and C” would include but not be limited to systems that have A alone, B alone, C alone, A and B together, A and C together, B and C together, and/or A, B, and C together, etc.). In those instances where a convention analogous to “at least one of A, B, or C, etc.” is used, in general such a construction is intended in the sense one having skill in the art would understand the convention (e.g., “a system having at least one of A, B, or C” would include but not be limited to systems that have A alone, B alone, C alone, A and B together, A and C together, B and C together, and/or A, B, and C together, etc.). It will be further understood by those within the art that typically a disjunctive word and/or phrase presenting two or more alternative terms, whether in the description, claims, or drawings, should be understood to contemplate the possibilities of including one of the terms, either of the terms, or both terms unless context dictates otherwise. For example, the phrase “A or B” will be typically understood to include the possibilities of “A” or “B” or “A and B.”

With respect to the appended claims, those skilled in the art will appreciate that recited operations therein may generally be performed in any order. Also, although various operational flows are presented in a sequence(s), it should be understood that the various operations may be performed in other orders than those which are illustrated, or may be performed concurrently. Examples of such alternate orderings may include overlapping, interleaved, interrupted, reordered, incremental, preparatory, supplemental, simultaneous, reverse, or other variant orderings, unless context dictates otherwise. Furthermore, terms like “responsive to,” “related to,” or other past-

tense adjectives are generally not intended to exclude such variants, unless context dictates otherwise.

While various aspects and embodiments have been disclosed herein, other aspects and embodiments will be apparent to those skilled in the art. The various aspects and embodiments disclosed herein are for purposes of illustration and are not intended to be limiting, with the true scope and spirit being indicated by the following claims.

The invention claimed is:

1. A method for promotional correlation with selective vehicle modes, comprising:

identifying a compliance state of a multi-mode vehicle in a user-selected first vehicle operation mode implemented via a vehicle operation control system relative to a given administrative standard established by an administrative entity, the administrative standard defining one or more predetermined vehicle operation modes of a vehicle traveling via a particular route or area, the compliance state corresponding to an extrinsic first benefit that accrues based on conformity with the given administrative standard, wherein the first benefit is provided by the administrative entity;

establishing criteria for a preferred promotional result including an award or value or advantage that is different from the first benefit, which preferred promotional result correlates with at least one type of second vehicle operation mode that includes a configurable vehicle operating parameter implemented by a user-selection made via the vehicle operation control system of the multi-mode vehicle during an applicable travel period via the particular route or area subject to the given administrative standard; and

receiving a notification from an on-board or remotely located communication module regarding a modified administrative conformity status of the vehicle based on confirmation of the implemented vehicle operation mode and/or the implemented vehicle operating parameter that are sufficient to qualify for the preferred promotional result.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

responsive to the notification, making the preferred promotional result available to a qualified recipient associated with the vehicle.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein said making the preferred promotional result available to the qualified recipient includes:

making an award or value or advantage available to one or more of the following type of qualified recipients based on the implemented vehicle operation mode: vehicle, operator, driver, passenger, vehicle owner, vehicle lessor, vehicle lessee, vehicle fleet owner, vehicle fleet manager.

4. The method of claim 2 wherein said making the preferred promotional result available to the qualified recipient includes:

making one or more of the following type of award or value or advantage available as part of the preferred promotional result: priority access to battery recharge station, priority battery servicing, reduced cost for battery recharge, free battery renewal service, customized battery recharge, discounted cost for battery replacement, special warranty on new battery purchase, higher quality battery purchase at standard price.

5. The method of claim 2 wherein said making the preferred promotional result available to the qualified recipient includes:

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making one or more of the following type of award or value or advantage available as part of the preferred promotional result: reduced vehicle registration fees, reduced fuel price, priority fuel purchase, preferred parking location, reduced parking fee, tax credit, traffic lane usage, bridge usage, reduced toll rate, financial rebate, store discount, product discount, membership offer.

6. The method of claim 2 wherein said making the preferred promotional result available to the qualified recipient includes:

making an award or value or advantage available upon arrival at one or more of the following types of destination: parking lot, road exit, traffic lane entry, traffic lane exit, bridge entry, bridge exit, retail store, service store, event location, event ticket office, transit station.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein said receiving the notification includes:

receiving directly or indirectly from one or more of the following parties the notification that includes the implemented vehicle operation mode: operator or driver or passenger or owner or lessor or lessee or fleet manager of the vehicle.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein said identifying the compliance state includes:

identifying the compliance state that includes one or more of the following types of qualification requirements: number of passengers, I-10V lane account status, toll road account status, public road standard, public area standard, private road standard, private area standard, electric power mode, combustion/electric hybrid mode, combustion fuel content, bio-fuel content, natural gas fuel, engine efficiency, miles/per/gallon calibration, combustion emission, zero-emissions, exhaust content, maximum speed limitation, safety metric, environmental guideline.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein said receiving the notification includes:

receiving the notification directly or indirectly from a detection and/or monitoring device in the vehicle.

10. The method of claim 1 further comprising: receiving vehicle identifier data indicative of one or more identification characteristics for the vehicle traveling via the particular route or area.

11. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

making the preferred promotional result available at one or more of the following types of specified destination: battery recharge station, battery renewal facility, high-voltage recharge station, low-voltage recharge station, battery replacement station, priority battery service, fuel supply station, diesel combustion fuel station, gasoline combustion fuel station, natural gas fuel station, bio-fuel station, priority fuel service.

12. The method of claim 1 further comprising: making the preferred promotional result available at one or more of the following types of specified destination: parking facility, overnight accommodation, residence, office facility, vehicle repair station, vehicle accessory store, Internet access location, public transit station, private transit site, rented-vehicle return site, vehicle inspection location, jurisdictional border, licensing authority, tax assessment site, monitoring unit, detection lane.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein said establishing criteria for the preferred promotional result includes:

establishing the criteria for the preferred promotional result correlated with one or more implemented configurable vehicle operating parameters that achieve a preferable vehicle operation during all or a portion of travel

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via the particular route or area and/or during all or a portion of a temporal travel period, subject to the given administrative standard.

14. The method of claim 13 further comprising:

correlating the preferred promotional result with at least one preferable vehicle operation implemented in the vehicle.

15. The method of claim 14 further comprising:

correlating the preferred promotional result with a battery charging/discharging mode implemented in the vehicle.

16. The method of claim 14 further comprising:

correlating the preferred promotional result with an exhaust mode for fuel emissions implemented in the vehicle.

17. The method of claim 14 further comprising:

correlating the preferred promotional result with a fuel composition mode implemented in the vehicle.

18. The method of claim 14 further comprising:

correlating the preferred promotional result with a multi-passenger threshold mode implemented in the vehicle.

19. The method of claim 14 further comprising:

correlating the preferred promotional result with an electrical power mode or a combustion power mode for a hybrid engine in the vehicle.

20. The method of claim 14 further comprising:

correlating the preferred promotional result with a calibrated temperature mode for a vehicle component.

21. The method of claim 14 further comprising:

correlating the preferred promotional result with a limited velocity mode based on a maximum speed or minimum speed or speed range implemented in the vehicle.

22. The method of claim 21 further comprising:

correlating the preferred promotional result with a velocity mode to achieve a targeted destination arrival time.

23. The method of claim 14 further comprising:

correlating the preferred promotional result with a safety factor mode or an environmental benchmark mode implemented in the vehicle.

24. The method of claim 14 further comprising:

correlating the preferred promotional result with an engine efficiency mode or a calibrated miles-per-gallon mode implemented in the vehicle.

25. The method of claim 1 wherein said receiving the notification includes:

receiving confirmation of one or more of the following types of configurable vehicle operation parameters implemented in the vehicle: number of passengers, battery-powered mode, combustion-powered mode, bio-fuel mode, bio-fuel blend mode, natural gas mode, electric power mode, low emission mode, calibrated miles/per/gallon mode, battery-charge mode, battery-discharge mode, low-temperature engine mode, electric/combustion hybrid mode, solely electric power mode, primarily electric power mode, solely fuel combustion mode, primarily fuel combustion mode, safety certification mode, environmental certification mode, emission content, zero emissions, approved catalytic converter, speed-limiter activated, turned-on headlights.

26. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

providing preferred promotional result information that indicates the correlation between the preferred promotional result and a specified time period for implementing the vehicle operation mode.

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27. The method of claim 1 wherein said receiving the notification includes:

receiving the notification indicating a partial achievement of a required implementation of the vehicle operation mode during the applicable travel period.

28. The method of claim 27 further comprising: authorizing a reduced or lesser preferred promotional result based on the partial achievement of the required implementation of the vehicle operation mode.

29. The method of claim 1 further comprising: providing preferred promotional result information regarding one or more of the following types of qualification criteria: redemption expiration, non-transferability, geographic redemption boundaries, cumulative vehicle performance, previous promotional result status, value limitation, multiple/duplicate award disqualification.

30. A computer program product comprising non-transitory computer-readable media having encoded instructions for executing the following method for promotional correlation with selective vehicle modes:

identifying a compliance state of a multi-mode vehicle in a user-selected first vehicle operation mode implemented via a vehicle operation control system relative to a given administrative standard established by an administrative entity, the administrative standard defining one or more predetermined vehicle operation modes of a vehicle traveling via a particular route or area, the compliance state corresponding to an extrinsic first benefit that accrues based on conformity with the given administrative standard, wherein the first benefit is provided by the administrative entity;

establishing criteria for a preferred promotional result including an award or value or advantage that is different from the first benefit, which preferred promotional result correlates with at least one type of second vehicle operation mode that includes a configurable vehicle operating parameter implemented by a user-selection made via the vehicle operation control system of the multi-mode vehicle during an applicable travel period via the particular route or area subject to the given administrative standard; and

receiving and processing a notification from an on-board or remotely located communication module regarding a modified administrative conformity status of the vehicle based on confirmation of the implemented vehicle operation mode and/or the implemented vehicle operating parameter that are sufficient to qualify for the preferred promotional result.

31. The computer program product of claim 30 wherein the method further includes:

responsive to the notification, making the preferred promotional result available to a qualified recipient associated with the vehicle.

32. The computer program product of claim 31 wherein the method feature making the preferred promotional result available to the qualified recipient includes:

making one or more of the following type of award or value or advantage available as part of the preferred promotional result: priority access to battery recharge station, priority battery servicing, reduced cost for battery recharge, free battery renewal service, customized battery recharge, discounted cost for battery replacement, special warranty on new battery purchase, higher quality battery purchase at standard price.

33. The computer program product of claim 31 wherein the method feature making the preferred promotional result available to the qualified recipient includes:

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making one or more of the following type of award or value or advantage available as part of the preferred promotional result: reduced vehicle registration fees, reduced fuel price, priority fuel purchase, preferred parking location, reduced parking fee, tax credit, traffic lane usage, bridge usage, reduced toll rate, financial rebate, store discount, product discount, membership offer.

34. The computer program product of claim 31 wherein the method feature making the preferred promotional result available to the qualified recipient includes:

making an award or value or advantage available upon arrival at one or more of the following types of destination: parking lot, road exit, traffic lane entry, traffic lane exit, bridge entry, bridge exit, retail store, service store, event location, event ticket office, transit station.

35. The computer program product of claim 30 wherein the method feature receiving and processing the notification includes:

receiving directly or indirectly from one or more of the following parties the notification that includes the implemented vehicle operation mode: operator or driver or passenger or owner or lessor or lessee or fleet manager of the vehicle.

36. The computer program product of claim 30 wherein the method feature identifying the compliance state includes:

identifying the compliance state that includes one or more of the following types of qualification requirements: number of passengers, HOV lane account status, toll road account status, public road standard, public area standard, private road standard, private area standard, electric power mode, combustion/electric hybrid mode, combustion fuel content, bio-fuel content, natural gas fuel, engine efficiency, miles/per/gallon calibration, combustion emission, zero-emissions, exhaust content, maximum speed limitation, safety metric, environmental guideline.

37. The computer program product of claim 30 wherein the method feature receiving and processing the notification includes:

receiving the notification directly or indirectly from a detection and/or monitoring device in the vehicle.

38. The computer program product of claim 30 wherein the method further includes:

processing vehicle identifier data indicative of one or more identification characteristics for the vehicle traveling via the particular route or area.

39. The computer program product of claim 31 wherein the method feature making the preferred promotional result available to the qualified recipient includes:

making an award or value or advantage available to one or more of the following type of qualified recipients based on the implemented vehicle operation mode: vehicle, operator, driver, passenger, vehicle owner, vehicle lessor, vehicle lessee, vehicle fleet owner, vehicle fleet manager.

40. The computer program product of claim 30 wherein the method further includes:

making the preferred promotional result available at one or more of the following types of specified destination: battery recharge station, battery renewal facility, high-voltage recharge station, low-voltage recharge station, battery replacement station, priority battery service, fuel supply station, diesel combustion fuel station, gasoline combustion fuel station, natural gas fuel station, bio-fuel station, priority fuel service.

41. The computer program product of claim 30 wherein the method further includes:

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making the preferred promotional result available at one or more of the following types of specified destination: parking facility, overnight accommodation, residence, office facility, vehicle repair station, vehicle accessory store, Internet access location, public transit station, private transit site, rented-vehicle return site, vehicle inspection location, jurisdictional border, licensing authority, tax assessment site, monitoring unit, detection lane.

42. The computer program product of claim 30 wherein the method feature establishing criteria for the preferred promotional result includes:

establishing the criteria for the preferred promotional result correlated with one or more implemented configurable vehicle operating parameters that achieve a preferable vehicle operation during all or a portion of travel via the particular route or area and/or during all or a portion of a temporal travel period, subject to the given administrative standard.

43. The computer program product of claim 42 wherein the method further includes:

correlating the preferred promotional result with at least one preferable vehicle operation implemented in the vehicle.

44. The computer program product of claim 43 wherein the method further includes:

correlating the preferred promotional result with a battery charging/discharging mode implemented in the vehicle.

45. The computer program product of claim 43 wherein the method further includes:

correlating the preferred promotional result with an exhaust mode for fuel emissions implemented in the vehicle.

46. The computer program product of claim 43 wherein the method further includes:

correlating the preferred promotional result with a fuel composition mode implemented in the vehicle.

47. The computer program product of claim 43 wherein the method further includes:

correlating the preferred promotional result with a multi-passenger threshold mode implemented in the vehicle.

48. The computer program product of claim 43 wherein the method further includes:

correlating the preferred promotional result with an electrical power mode or a combustion power mode for a hybrid engine in the vehicle.

49. The computer program product of claim 43 wherein the method further includes:

correlating the preferred promotional result with a calibrated temperature mode for a vehicle component.

50. The computer program product of claim 43 wherein the method further includes:

correlating the preferred promotional result with a limited velocity mode based on a maximum speed or minimum speed or speed range implemented in the vehicle.

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51. The computer program product of claim 50 wherein the method further includes:

correlating the preferred promotional result with a velocity mode to achieve a targeted destination arrival time.

52. The computer program product of claim 43 wherein the method further includes:

correlating the preferred promotional result with a safety factor mode or an environmental benchmark mode implemented in the vehicle.

53. The computer program product of claim 43 wherein the method further includes:

correlating the preferred promotional result with an engine efficiency mode or a calibrated miles-per-gallon mode implemented in the vehicle.

54. The computer program product of claim 30 wherein the method feature receiving and processing the notification includes:

receiving confirmation of one or more of the following types of configurable vehicle operation parameters implemented in the vehicle: number of passengers, battery-powered mode, combustion-powered mode, bio-fuel mode, bio-fuel blend mode, natural gas mode, electric power mode, low emission mode, calibrated miles/per-gallon mode, battery-charge mode, battery-discharge mode, low-temperature engine mode, electric/combustion hybrid mode, solely electric power mode, primarily electric power mode, solely fuel combustion mode, primarily fuel combustion mode, safety certification mode, environmental certification mode, emission content, zero emissions, approved catalytic converter, speed-limiter activated, turned-on headlights.

55. The computer program product of claim 30 wherein the method further includes:

providing preferred promotional result information that indicates the correlation between the preferred promotional result and a specified time period for implementing the vehicle operation mode.

56. The computer program product of claim 30 wherein said receiving and processing the notification includes:

receiving the notification indicating a partial achievement of a required implementation of the vehicle operation mode during the applicable travel period.

57. The computer program product of claim 56 wherein the method further includes:

authorizing a reduced or lesser preferred promotional result based on the partial achievement of the required implementation of the vehicle operation mode.

58. The computer program product of claim 30 wherein the method includes:

providing preferred promotional result information regarding one or more of the following types of qualification criteria: redemption expiration, non-transferability, geographic redemption boundaries, cumulative vehicle performance, previous promotional result status, value limitation, multiple/duplicate award disqualification.

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